

THE TIMES

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MONDAY FEBRUARY 27 1995

£600m loss caused by dealings of one employee

Bank leads fight to save Barings from collapsing

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

EMERGENCY talks to find £600 million to prevent the collapse of Barings Brothers, the oldest bank in the City, went on last night against a deadline which could trigger an international banking crisis.

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, headed a task force in an attempt to organise funding before the financial markets opened in the Far East.

Losses of more than £600 million have been run up by Nick Leeson, a senior Barings trader in Singapore, wiping out the bank's entire capital. Mr Leeson, head of derivative trading in Singapore, went missing on Thursday and has not been seen since.

Barings, which employs 2,000 people in London and a total of 4,000 worldwide, discovered that he had bought between 15,000 and 20,000 contracts related to the Nikkei-225 stock index, which is traded on the Singapore stock market, and in Osaka, Japan. The dealing was unauthorised, and Barings had no knowledge of them.

Despite strict ceilings and monitoring procedures, Mr Leeson had managed to build up the portfolio of contracts over the previous two or three weeks. He is thought to have carried out the trades using a new model developed by the bank with built-in safeguards which were meant to detect anything untoward. If these positions are not closed today, the losses would spiral when markets open. Another 1,000



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fall in the index would run up a further £150 million loss.

By last night the Barings disaster was already the worst to hit Britain's banking world in more than a decade. The Bank of England feared that the total collapse of Barings could lead to turmoil in global financial markets and to an international banking crisis.

Allowing Barings — the best-established bank in the country, founded in 1762 and with a client list including the Queen — to collapse would also cause untold damage to the reputation of the City as a financial centre. For the Bank of England, the traditional lender of last resort, to be unable to save an important British bank in trouble would be disastrous.

Barings directors were said to be in tears on Friday when they learned of the losses. The action appeared to be one of deliberate fraud, though it was not clear last night whether or not the intention was to cause the collapse of the bank. Mr Leeson is understood to have left Singapore, but his whereabouts are unknown. The Bank of England was

notified on Friday and began work with Barings directors to try to work out a rescue. It is understood to have called all the main European banks and leading American investment banks. The main interest came from NatWest, ABN Amro, the Dutch banking giant, and the Swiss Bank Corporation.

Three options were being considered: a takeover of Barings by another bank, a lifeboat rescue operation involving a group of mainly British banks, or the collapse into administration of Barings.

Quentin Davies, a Conservative member of the Commons Treasury select committee, last night called on the Bank of England to disclose when it became aware of the crisis and to give details of the preventive action it took.

Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, called for an explanation from the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the scale of Bank's involvement. "For some time there has been concern about the use of derivatives and the lack of appropriate supervision and regulation," he said. "It is not

just a matter for the Bank or company concerned. There is a public interest in ensuring that the integrity of the system is not threatened by losses of this nature."

Malcolm Bruce, Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said: "This astonishing and disturbing incident raises serious doubts about financial controls in the trading areas of our major banks. As soon as the Bank of England and Treasury have stabilised the situation, which must be achieved without resort to taxpayers' pockets, there should be a full investigation into the control of risk at British banks."

Derivatives are sophisticated financial instruments which include futures, options and swaps. They are tradable contracts linked with underlying values of currencies, equities, bonds or commodities. They were invented to help to provide protection against wide price moves by allowing players in the global market to hedge their positions and manage risk.

They are increasingly traded for their own sake, however, to turn a profit. If a trader bets on prices moving one way and they go the opposite way, he ends up with losses.

The position of Barings seemed to be strong compared to some of its competitors. It has a good corporate advisory business — notable business includes its work for Lloyds Bank, advising on the proposed acquisition of the Chelsea & Gloucester Building Society, and acting for Wellcome, the drugs group, which is fighting off a hostile

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Nigel Benn, who won by a knockout, leaving his home in Beckenham yesterday

Injured boxer 'has good chance of survival'

By BILL FROST
AND JOHN GOODBODY

GERALD McCLELLAN, the boxer who suffered a massive brain injury in his world title bout with Nigel Benn, has a "good chance" of surviving, according to John Sutcliffe, the neurosurgeon who operated on him.

Mr Sutcliffe gave a warning, however, that the next 48 hours would be crucial. He said the 27-year-old American was in a "very critical" state on a life-support machine, would never fight again and could end up disabled.

McClellan, a former world middleweight champion, had a blood clot removed from the right side of his brain after the most brutal championship fight seen in a British ring for years. A capacity crowd of 12,000 in the London Docklands Arena and an estimated 13 million television viewers in Britain saw Benn, the underdog, survive two knockdowns in the opening round on Saturday night and come back to win by a knockout in the tenth. At the ringside was Michael Watson, one of Benn's former rivals, who has been confined to a wheelchair since being crippled in a bout with Chris Eubank in 1991.

Special precautions had been taken by the British Boxing Board of Control, with an anaesthetist, four other doctors, two ambulances and two sets of paramedics at the bout, which John Morris, the board secretary, said had been expected to be "explosive".

Mr Sutcliffe said yesterday that oxygen given by medical staff at the ringside had played a vital role in keeping McClellan alive. In spite of this care, however, the British Medical Association and Sam Galbraith, a neurosurgeon and Labour MP for Strathkel-

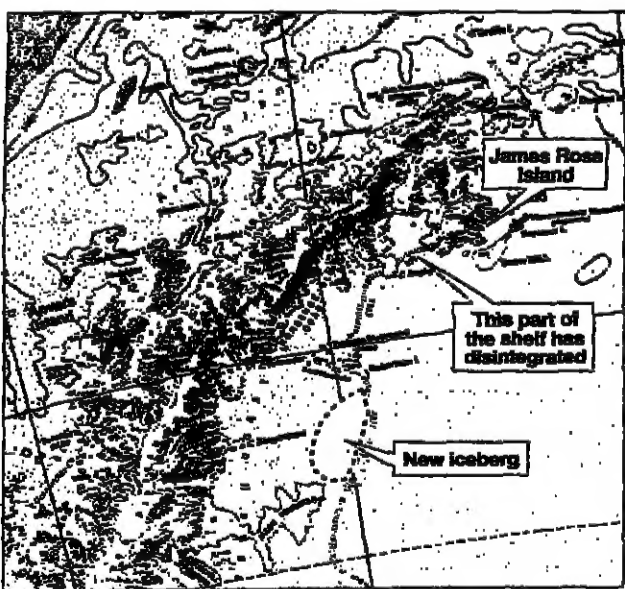
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Fisherman lost after North Sea collision

A fisherman was missing last night after an oil rig supply vessel and the Arbroath registered fishing boat *Sharrisdale* collided in the North Sea 30 miles north-east of Aberdeen. Five other crew were rescued from lifeboats and the sea by the supply boat *Hunter*, registered in Hamburg. The fishing boat sank in minutes.

Mayhew warning on IRA weapons

Sir Patrick Mayhew stepped up pressure on the IRA to give up its weapons when he said, on the eve of the Sinn Féin conference, that no minister would meet the party without "substantial progress" on the arms issue. Page 2



Antarctica casts off county-size iceberg

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

AN ICEBERG the size of Oxfordshire has broken away from Antarctica as rising temperatures in the region trigger a disintegration of the continent's ice sheets.

British scientists said yesterday that the iceberg, which measures 1,115 square miles, could be taken by currents and winds towards the Falkland Islands and up the east coast of South America over the coming months and years. If it gets that far, it may break up and endanger shipping.

The British Antarctic Survey in Cambridge said that the "calving of one large iceberg may be a forerunner of a more serious disintegration of the ice sheets". Scientists have found that part of the Larsen ice shelf, which connected James Ross island with the peninsula over the Prince Gustav Channel, has also melted away. For the first time

in recorded history the island, named after the head of an 1842 British expedition, can be sailed around. Ice sheets are considered permanent.

Teams from the survey's Rothera research station in Antarctica flew over the area to confirm satellite observations and the iceberg's size. They will disclose their findings today.

Dr Mike Thomson, chief geologist for the survey, said: "Looking out of the aircraft window, I was utterly amazed to see the dramatic and very recent changes to the Larsen ice shelf. In 25 years of Antarctic fieldwork I have never seen anything like it."

Teenage runaway found in Malaysia

By BILL FROST

PETER KERRY, the schoolboy who ran away to Malaysia using his father's passport and credit card after a row with his family, was found safe and well yesterday. He was spotted on the border between Malaysia and Thailand and will be put on a flight home today.

The Foreign Office said that Peter, 14, identified while trying to cash a traveller's cheque, was put in the care of a "responsible British national". A spokesman said: "He is well, but extremely tired because of what he has been up to and because of jet lag. He's now fast asleep. Arrangements will be made for him to return."

The British High Commission in Malaysia will provide travel papers. His father, John Kerry, from Harrow, northwest London, who works for a courier firm at Heathrow, said: "I am so happy not only that he has been found, but alive, safe and well."



Kerry to be put on a flight home today

Major praises Euro-sceptics in bid to win vote

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR yesterday led an attempt by the Tory leadership to avoid defeat in Wednesday's Commons vote over Europe.

In a move that delighted Euro-sceptics but will enrage the pro-European wing of the party, the Prime Minister lent his name to a radical right-wing manifesto calling for tough new curbs on Brussels and the abandonment of the Maastricht timetable for a single currency.

In a foreword to the 40-page manifesto, whose authors include some of the leaders of the Tory revolt over Maastricht, Mr Major was careful to avoid endorsing their specific demands. But his description of their contribution as "lively and thought-provoking" was seen by the sceptics as an important olive branch in the Prime Minister's efforts to avoid a defeat that would raise fresh doubts over his leadership.

Leading right-wingers said the latest evidence that Mr Major was tilting towards the sceptic camp could help to persuade some of the nine whipless Tory rebels to support him in the vote on a Labour motion attacking the Government's European policy.

Jeremy Hanley, the Tory party chairman, joined the charm offensive, saying that a vote for the Government would hasten the end of the Conservative fold. "Those who do vote for the Government on Wednesday will be in a different position from those who do not. That is

clear," Mr Hanley said on Sky News. With the Ulster Unionists seemingly set to vote against the Government in protest against the framework document on Northern Ireland, the whipless Tories hold the key to the vote, which will be swiftly followed by a confidence motion if the Government loses.

Yesterday they appeared split, with as many as four, including Tony Marlow, ready to vote against the Government, but with the others inclined to abstain. Such an outcome could mean Mr Major losing by three votes.

The Prime Minister's olive branch was brandished in *A Europe of Nations*, a manifesto for next year's "Maastricht II" conference on the future of Europe, drawn up by the European Research Group, right-wing politicians from Britain and 19 other European countries. His involvement stemmed from a private lunch with most of the dozen Tories in the group, which is led by Michael Spicer, a former minister and a thorn in his side over Maastricht.

The Prime Minister said the "strength" of the paper was that it represented the "distinctive opinions" of a group of European Parliamentarians. He also highlighted elements of the sceptic agenda, such as the need to make Europe more responsive to its people and to ensure it was competitive.

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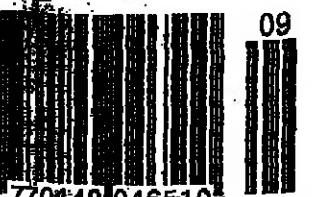
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Manifesto demands curb on Brussels powers



BY NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS aimed at transferring powers from Brussels to national parliaments and courts were unveiled yesterday by a group of centre-right politicians from across Europe.

They called for the scrapping of the Maastricht timetable for a single currency, tougher curbs on the European Parliament and the European Commission, and the phasing-out of the common agricultural policy. The growing tendency of the European Court of Justice to make policy would be halted.

The proposals, which amount to a call for a new constitutional settlement in Europe, have been drawn

up by the European Research Group, comprising more than 70 MPs and senators from 25 centre-right parties in 20 European countries.

The group, which includes 12 Conservatives and is chaired by Michael Spicer, a former minister and Maastricht rebel, wants the British and other governments to take up its 40-page manifesto at next year's "Maastricht II" summit to decide the destiny of the European Union. The pamphlet, *A Europe of Nations*, also sets out detailed treaty amendments putting its ideas into practice.

Mr Spicer said yesterday that its 49 recommendations, which cover every aspect of the Community's affairs, were in line with the thinking of 95 per cent of Conservative MPs

and the majority of the British people. In a speech today in Reading, he will say that only by protecting the powers of nation states against Brussels can the drift to a federal Europe be halted.

The manifesto calls for a multi-track Europe in which member states are free to decide whether they pool sovereignty with their partners on matters of common interest, such as transport or defence. This is the idea of "variable geometry" backed by John Major, who has written the foreword to the pamphlet.

The manifesto says: "The Union cannot flourish if its member states are forced against their will to participate in policies which are not in their interests. Groups of states should be able to integrate some policies without the unanimous con-

sent of all members. This will not only prevent countries from being forced to apply policies which they do not favour; it will also mean that countries which wish to pursue deeper integration cannot be held back by the veto of more reluctant states."

Legal changes to stop Brussels from encroaching on national sovereignty should be made, it says. National parliaments and governments should reign supreme in areas such as welfare, taxation, local government, foreign affairs, defence, immigration, education, health, industrial relations and law.

A Europe of Nations (European Research Group, G24 Norman Shaw North, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA: 0171-219 3491)

Squadron leader 'to blame for Prince's crash'

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AN RAF squadron leader is expected to be blamed for allowing the Prince of Wales to keep control of a BAe 146 jet which overshot the runway after coming in to land on the Scottish island of Islay in June last year.

The Queen's Flight passenger jet with Prince Charles in the pilot seat and 11 people on board touched down too late and too fast, sources said. It thundered down the runway, ending up nose-down and leaning on one side in grass at the end of the 5,000ft runway in a peat bog. Three of the tyres burst on landing. The RAF sources said the Prince decided to make the landing despite difficulties on his final approach.

The Ministry of Defence said yesterday that the report of the inquiry into the incident had not yet been published and refused to name the RAF officer who was the Prince's co-pilot. However, a leak of the board of inquiry findings indicated that the squadron leader, who was in overall command of the aircraft, should have taken control when it was clear the landing was causing difficulties. The four-engine passenger jet touched down too late and too fast, according to the leaked report.

The drama happened as the Prince tried twice to land the BAe 146 in strong winds on the island in the Inner Hebrides. The board of inquiry is understood to have ruled that responsibility for the incident rested with the squadron leader, sitting to the left of the Prince in the cockpit of the £30 million aircraft.

One source said: "The guy on the left should have shouted out to His Royal Highness and said, 'I have control'. But how do you shout that to the heir to the throne, effectively saying 'I'm sorry mate, but you've got it wrong'?" The source added: "But by the strict letter of the law, he was the man in charge and the buck stops with him."

After the landing the Prince made light of the episode, telling local children: "It wasn't quite a crash. We went off the end of the runway, unfortunately. It is not something I recommend happening all the time."

The damaged jet remained on Islay for several weeks for detailed examination and for repairs before it was flown back to RAF Benson, in Oxfordshire. The cost of the damage has not been revealed but is estimated to be around £1 million. The aircraft went back into service with the Royal Flight in January.

MPs face suspension for cash questions

The House of Commons Privileges Committee is likely to recommend tough punishment this week for two Conservative MPs who have been accused of asking questions in the House. MPs on the committee have been alarmed by the seriousness of the breaches of Commons rules, both by MPs and journalists. Sanctions against MPs could range from an admonishment to a suspension from the Commons.

Climbers warned

The Mountaineering Council for Scotland has warned outdoor enthusiasts not to set foot on the hills in winter without crampons, an ice axe and the knowledge of how to use them, after one of the worst months on record for casualties.

Clinic closes

The Thomas Cook Travel Clinic, which up to 10,000 travellers a year use to obtain instant vaccinations and preventive drugs, is to close this week as part of a cost cutting drive by the travel agency. The clinic was set up in London 16 years ago.

Last service

The Rev Kit Chalcraft, a vicar dismissed because he wants to marry for a third time, conducted his last Sunday service in a tiny 11th century church in rural Norfolk yesterday. Mr Chalcraft is scheduled to leave the vicarage shortly.

Director dead

The film director Jack Clayton, whose work included *Room at the Top* and *The Great Gatsby*, died at the age of 73 on Saturday after a short illness. The director Michael Winner said: "England has lost one of its great creative geniuses."

Lottery jackpot

One winner will take a jackpot prize of £7,056,280 for last week's National Lottery, according to Camelot, the organisers. Forty-five won £48,248 each for five numbers and the bonus, 1,135 each won £1,195 for five numbers. Winning numbers, page 22

CORRECTION

Our report (January 24) of the demands for the release of Private Lee Clegg, the paratrooper jailed for killing a joyrider in Belfast, contained comments from the previous day's press conference by Mr Simon McKay which were critical of the handling of his defence.

He claimed that the question whether Clegg had fired the fatal bullet had not been adequately investigated or tested in evidence, and that the ballistic evidence was unsatisfactory and had not been properly challenged.

Clegg's solicitors, Messrs McCarran Turkington Breen of Belfast, and his counsel entirely reject any suggestion that they were at fault in conducting his defence in the Crown Court and on appeal, whether in investigating the case, in collecting and analysing the evidence or in challenging the case put forward by the prosecution.

Excuse for refusing to talk to Sinn Fein 'could jeopardise peace process'

Mayhew increases pressure on IRA to hand over weapons

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SIR Patrick Mayhew stepped up pressure on the IRA to surrender its weapons yesterday when he said no ministers would meet Sinn Fein until "substantial progress" is made on the arms issue.

The comments by the Northern Ireland Secretary, which came as Sinn Fein held its annual conference in Dublin, were immediately condemned by Gerry Adams. The Sinn Fein president said the peace process was delicate and Sir Patrick's comments made him feel pessimistic.

Sir Patrick underlined the Government's determination to meet Unionist demands for the IRA to hand over its weapons when he said Sinn Fein could not enter full-scale talks while the IRA maintained its arsenal. His comments came after demands at the Sinn Fein conference for the party to meet ministers at multiparty talks on the future of Northern Ireland.

But the Northern Ireland Secretary told BBC's *Breakfast with Frost*: "If somebody comes to the negotiating table with other constitutional parties but is known to have Semtex, ground-to-air missiles, heavy machine-guns, mortars and so on, the implication is absolutely inescapable that they are prepared to resort to violence if they don't get what they want round the table."

However, Sir Patrick held out hope of progress when he said the Government was "not in the business of close definitions" on the issue of weapons.

Mr Adams said the Government was talking to him down the barrel of a gun and he

called for the decommissioning of weapons by all sides. He added that Sir Patrick's excuse for refusing to talk to Sinn Fein was a factor that could jeopardise the peace process.

The issue of arms has been one of the main stumbling blocks in the exploratory talks between Sinn Fein and British officials which began in Belfast just before Christmas. The Government has told Sinn Fein that it cannot be treated as a fully fledged constitutional party until the IRA hands over at least some of its weapons.

John Major has said he does not expect the IRA to surrender its weapons to the security forces in Northern Ireland and the Government would be prepared to accept a "token" handing over of arms in the Republic.

However, it is understood that the exploratory talks have reached deadlock because the two sides have failed to agree a

formula that would meet the Prime Minister's insistence on verifiable decommissioning of weapons.

At the Sinn Fein conference at Mansion House in Dublin at the weekend the party leadership gave a guarded welcome to last week's Anglo-Irish framework document on the future of Northern Ireland. Mr Adams tried to dampen the movement's expectations that the document would secure their demands when he portrayed it as an important interim measure on the way to a united Ireland.

He conceded that the ceasefire had been "unsettling, difficult and traumatic" for many republicans but he attempted to steer opponents of the ceasefire away from supporting violence when he said that the movement must become "guarantors of the peace process".

Security forces and ministers in Northern Ireland will be studying the speeches at the conference to gauge support within the movement for the IRA ceasefire. Only three members of the party spoke out against the truce and the leadership appears to have widespread support as the ceasefire reaches its sixth month next week.

Martin McGuinness, who is leading the Sinn Fein delegation in its exploratory talks with the Government, said last night that he expected to hold talks with senior British ministers within weeks. In a closing speech to the conference he said the exploratory talks would soon be concluded after the issue of republican prisoners has been discussed.



The McCrory family, from the Shankill Road, is against the latest initiative

Family unites to reject Anglo-Irish document

FROM EDWARD GORMAN
IN BELFAST

THE McCrory family lives not only within the physical bounds of West Belfast's loyalist ghetto but within its psychological straitjacket too.

In the McCrory household, amid the rundown terraced streets of the Shankill Road, words like hope or progress have long since been discarded from the vocabulary. Perhaps the most depressing aspect is the uniformity of views across the generations.

Marion McCrory, 69, and her 21-year-old grandson Mark Irvine, both reject the Anglo-Irish framework document outright.

To Marion, whose early childhood was spent in the lost glory days of the Protestant Ascendancy after Partition, the mere mention of the latest offering from

London and Dublin draws a fearful shudder. "It's hopeless," she said. There's no body wants peace more than I do. The other side, I mean Gerry Adams and those cowboys, they just want everything and they are getting it."

Mark, who has known nothing but violence in his short life, displays the same belief in betrayal. "It's all one sided from what I've heard - it's completely nationalist. They say Dublin has dropped their claim to Northern Ireland but the way Sinn Fein are going, they are getting what they want. Mr Major is buying them off from bombing the mainland and we are left to suffer for it," he said.

Mark and his grandmother also believe that the ceasefire is merely a brief respite before a new phase of violence. "I think we'll move to civil war again, so we will

in under two years we'll be back to the same violence," Mark said.

Marion's son Alfie, born in 1956, can recall at least part of a childhood of relative tranquillity. Alfie, unemployed for the past ten years but active in the local community, dismisses the document but is determined that the talking should continue.

"I would say it would be very hard to put any document down that would please both sides. So scrap the document and sit down and talk and come up with something else," he said.

He summed up the identity of views in the family as follows. "My mother is 100 per cent against it. I'm 100 per cent against it and Mark is 100 per cent against it. We don't want to live in a united Ireland, we want to live in peace and be left to live in peace."

MP denies 'grants for votes' claims

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

ROGER GODSIF, the Labour MP for Small Heath, who is at the centre of £2 million "grants for votes" allegations in Birmingham, called yesterday for a police investigation to clear his name. He denied that he had done anything illegal by helping constituents to jump the queue for housing renovation grants in the city.

But against the background of claims that Mr Godsiff, whose seat disappears at the next election, had favoured Labour Party members crucial to his hopes of being

selected for the neighbouring Sparkbrook constituency, he said he would ask Ron Hatfield, the West Midlands Chief Constable, to order an investigation.

"I think this is all a gross distortion. It is slurs by implication and needs to be investigated in order to clear things up," Mr Godsiff spoke out as Labour leaders at party headquarters in London and in Birmingham announced separate inquiries.

Tom Sawyer, Labour general secretary, said: "These are

very serious allegations and I will be initiating an immediate inquiry. I have no intention of allowing misconduct of any individual member of the party to harm the reputation of Birmingham Labour Party."

Theresa Stewart, Labour leader of Birmingham City Council, said: "I consider the queue-jumping allegations a serious matter. I have been told there is a significant number of Labour Party members involved. There is a big issue here. It will not be swept

under the carpet. The matter will be investigated by both the chief executive and the district auditor."

The allegations arise out of the system the council uses to process applications for renovation grants of up to £20,000. Because of cash restrictions, it has set up an informal queue for applicants. But Mr Godsiff and local Labour councillors have helped people to jump the queue by advising them to fill in official forms, which have to be processed in six months.

Boxer's hope of survival

Continued from page 1
vin and Bearsden, yesterday renewed calls for professional boxing to be banned. But the Department of Health said yesterday: "If we banned boxing it would go underground, and it would not be regulated as it is now."

Benn was examined at the same hospital, the Royal London, after the bout for exhaustion and a suspected broken jaw but then released and went home.

Mr Sutcliffe operated on McClellan on Saturday night, removing a blood clot of about 3in by 2in. "It would be fair to

say he is stable," he said yesterday, "but things could take a change for the better or worse over the next 48 to 72 hours. I think there is a good chance that he will survive, unless any other problems develop during the next 24 to 48 hours."

McClellan's family, including his son and daughter, left Freeport, Illinois, yesterday to fly to London to be with him.

Mr Sutcliffe, who operated on McClellan on Saturday night, removing a blood clot of about 3in by 2in, said it was too early to say what problems

McClellan might face. "It's difficult at this stage to predict any damage there may have been from the effects of the pressure [on his brain]."

Mr Sutcliffe said the fighter was minutes from death when he arrived at the hospital. His injuries were very similar to those of Stone last year. "The blood clot was very much alike, but Bradley's was slightly bigger. The crucial feature that will allow Gerald to survive is that he got here quicker."

Thomas Sutcliffe, page 4
Srikumar Sen, page 23



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Crisis grips City as 200-year-old merchant bank nears collapse after trader's huge losses

Empire's financier last faced disaster a century ago

BY ALAN HAMILTON

A HUNDRED years ago London's oldest-established merchant bank last teetered on the edge of collapse and the City judged it the worst financial crisis there since the South Sea Bubble in 1720.

Financier to the British Empire and confident of foreign governments, Barings faced possible ruin in 1890 after raising £95 million for overseas borrowers, with Argentina at the top of its list. In the late Victorian age, South America held the same appeal for speculators as do the tiger economies of the Pacific Rim in the 1990s.

The Argentine loan began to look distinctly shaky, with South American borrowers defaulting to create the bust that follows boom. Bank rates went up from 3 to 5 per cent to protect British gold reserves.

THE BANK

Lombard Street was alive with rumour that a major house was in trouble. Barings was forced to declare that its liabilities amounted to £21 million, more than twice the entire reserves of the Bank of England. Queen Victoria noted in her diary: "Lord Revelstoke (Barings' chairman) had rashly and credulously put all he had into these Argentine mines or works, and had been cheated by the Argentine agents who had come to him."

A rescue operation was mounted by the Bank of England and leading City institutions, which raised a £17.1 million fund — about £450 million in today's money, much the same as this week-end's reported losses — to guarantee Barings' debts.

Within four years Barings had discharged its debt and resumed its position as one of the most powerful banking houses in Europe. In 1903, a German diplomat reported to Berlin: "Anyone who wants to place a loan in London, on a grand scale must apply to the Barings." But the 1890 crisis



Sir Francis Baring: built foundations of business

had one lasting effect on the bank: the partnership of the Barings brothers was dissolved, to be replaced by a limited company. Originally from The Netherlands, the Baring family moved to Bremen in north Germany, from where Johann Baring emigrated to England in 1777. He settled in Exeter, married a local girl, and conducted a modest business as a wool merchant. But Devon was too sleepy for his three sons, who moved to London to operate as wool and general merchants on a grander scale.

Francis, the most ambitious son, became a director and eventually chairman of the East India Company. Elected to Parliament, he was created a baronet by William Pitt in 1793. Guided by experts in Amsterdam, then the financial capital of the world, Sir Francis established a bank in 1762, and rapidly expanded from merely financing the wool trade into shipping and all aspects of international trade.

From then, there was no stopping the Barings. One of Sir Francis's sons went to the fledgling United States of America, married into its emergent high society, and negotiated the Louisiana Purchase from France. He came home to be created the first Lord Ashburton and appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer.

quer. In Europe, the Barings arranged loans to France for reparations after Waterloo; they became financial agents for both the United States and Imperial Russian governments, and issued bonds for the governments of China and Japan.

Such was their influence in the High Victorian age that the Duc de Richelieu, French soldier and statesman, was moved to declare: "There are six great powers in Europe: England, France, Russia, Austria, Prussia and the Baring brothers." In the heyday of empire, the Barings financed every major commodity from Malayan rubber to Australian wool, together with the ships that bore the produce of the colonies and dominions to Britain.

But their dealings were not confined to the red parts of the map. In 1922 they raised a £10 million loan for the government of Czechoslovakia, then an infant state born out of the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. In 1959, still owed £240,000 by what had become a Communist government, the bank's managing director flew to Prague and, after days of frustrating confrontation with bureaucrats who denied all knowledge of the debt, finally managed to recover all but £60,000 of it.

In more recent years the Barings were overtaken in size and influence by other City merchant banking houses, but retained an impressive portfolio of blue-chip clients. In 1985, ownership — although not control — of the bank was passed to the Baring Foundation, a charity which does good works largely in east London.

Barings survived the City crash of 1890, but has found the 1990s tough going. Two years ago Christopher Heath, head of its securities arm, resigned in the midst of a policy dispute and a halving of the Baring group's annual profits to a paltry £12 million. There was worse to come.

City crisis, page 1



The founders of Barings, Sir Francis Baring, his brother John and son-in-law Charles Wall, from an 1806 painting by Sir Thomas Lawrence

Influence goes beyond world of finance

BY ALAN HAMILTON

NOT since the Middle Ages has one family aspired so successfully to the ranks of the British aristocracy as the Barings. Although most of this vast clan no longer have any direct connection with the bank, they can still boast five peerages — those of Ashburton, Cromer, Howick, Northbrook and Revelstoke, all Barings to a man.

Their influence has extended far beyond the intimate world of City finance, in which, as Protestants of distant Dutch origin, they rose to power in a community dominated by the great Jewish banking families. The present Lord Ashburton, formerly Sir John Baring, is chairman of British

Petroleum, Britain's largest company, and has sat on the boards of the Bank of England, Jaguar, Dunlop and Royal Insurance. Another Baring, who became the first Lord Cromer, ran Egypt as a personal fiefdom in colonial days; his son Evelyn became governor-general of Kenya, the last precolonial of empire, and was created Lord Howick for his services.

The third Earl of Cromer, who died in 1991, took the Baring name to Washington, where he was British ambassador, and subsequently to the Bank of England, where he was governor. Thomas Baring, created the first Lord Northbrook, was Viceroy of India and subsequently First Lord of the Admiralty.

The unlikely people claim a family connection: the Princess of Wales is the



The Baring family crest

great-granddaughter of a Baring. Another descendant is Richard Ingrams, proprietor of *The Oldie* magazine and former editor of *Private Eye*.

Since its earliest days in England, when the bank's founder was financial adviser to William Pitt, the family has moved in the highest circles. Seven have become directors of the Bank of England, one a Chancellor of

the Exchequer, and one was until recently receiver-general to the Duchy of Cornwall, thereby an adviser to the Prince of Wales.

Inevitably in such a rich, widespread and powerful family, the name of Baring makes frequent appearances in the gossip columns. While at Eton in the 1980s Alexander Baring, son of the present Lord Ashburton, gained brief notoriety when he was fined £87 for dodging his train fare.

More recently his distant cousin Samantha Baring, then 23, had her name linked romantically with the 46-year-old Christopher Heath, a married man and head of the bank's securities division until a policy dispute forced him to resign from his £3 million-a-year post.

Anthony Baring, another distant cousin, is married to the daughter of the actor Joss

Ackland. Yet another, Katherine Baring, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, was married to the unemployed Alexander Slack for only seven months before he sold intimate details of his previous liaison with Serena Stanhope, now married to Viscount Linley.

But the most famous family socialite of recent years has been yet another cousin, Clarissa Baring, who was expelled from two boarding schools when young, who addressed the Queen at a reception as "Janet Brown" (an actress noted for her impersonations) and who finally admitted to drug addiction.

"A lot of the reasons upper-class kids get into drugs is because they are so bloody arrogant they think drugs won't hook them," Miss Baring said with a rare and perceptive candour.



In the late 19th century Barings investment in US railways helped develop the mid West cornfields



Barings issued sterling bonds in 1909 and 1910 on behalf of the New York Telephone Company

Bank mounts rescue

Continued from page 1
takeover from rival Glaxo. It has a successful securities operation, with particular strength in trading emerging markets securities.

In October last year it bucked the trend among merchant banks by unveiling an increase in its pre-tax profits of 54 per cent, to £54.8 million.

Other banks have suffered declining profits after turbulence in the American and Western European securities and bond markets.

Barings' strength in Asia had been expected to shield the bank from such problems.

Directors appeared on course to receive large bonuses after the publication of the bank's full year results, expected in two weeks.

News of Barings' demise, should the rescue attempt fail, would fuel concerns among international bank regulators about the use of derivatives.

Barings is the latest in a line of derivatives market victims. Last year Orange County, in California, filed for protection from its creditors in an American bankruptcy court after disclosing investment losses estimated at \$1.69 billion (£1.07 billion).

Gambles that make fools and fortunes

BY NEIL BENNETT, DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

IN recent years a succession of the world's largest banks and industrial companies have lost billions of pounds in the rapidly developing market of derivatives trading. In many cases the losses have been run up by dealers overstepping their authority in the hope of amassing huge profits for their firm and slipping through the firms' inadequate safety procedures.

The term derivatives, a key piece of the financial world's jargon, describes a whole range of financial products. They are financial deals that allow an investor to buy or sell something at an agreed price at a fixed date in the future. Different derivatives such as options, futures and swaps can be traded in a whole range of commodities, from sugar and oil to financial products like foreign exchange and even interest rates.

Trading in derivatives has grown exponentially in recent years as the world's financial markets have developed, and many international banks trade hundreds of billions of pounds in futures and options each year. When properly used, derivatives can act as a vital insurance policy for investors. Every fixed rate mortgage relies on a derivative. The bank or building society that sells the mortgage must convert ordinary floating rate borrowings into fixed rate debt using a derivative called a swap. Large export firms

rely on foreign currency futures to prevent themselves losing out if the pound strengthens, while food companies trade heavily in commodity markets to guarantee uninterrupted supplies of raw materials at stable prices.

But derivatives are also used to gamble on the financial markets because they are volatile and can collapse as worthless or double in value almost overnight. Many traders have made fortunes speculating on the futures market that the dollar will fall or the stock market will rise. But just as many have lost fortunes.

The difficulty with derivatives lies in their complexity. Foreign exchange futures and swaps can often involve three or more currencies, and a large investment bank could have tens of thousands of derivative contracts on its books at any one time. As a result it is often difficult for a bank to determine how much risk it is taking.

Large investment banks installed computer systems to track their derivatives exposure and ensure risks were contained. A lack of adequate systems has meant that other banks and companies have been hit by huge losses. Often by the time they learn about illicit trading activities of staff, it is too late.

Sunday suits only clue to turmoil

YOU could not have blamed the tourists strolling through the sunlit City of London yesterday for not realising that they were meandering through the capital's biggest financial crisis in a decade (Joe Joseph writes). Most probably had no idea as they walked past Baring Brothers' head office in Bishopsgate what a "derivative" was.

A small posse of photographers and television crews loitering outside the smoked-glass building struggled to frame anything in their lenses that captured the depth of the crisis indoors: a few men in suits coming and going in shiny Mercedes and limousines were

all that betrayed the hair-tearing hullabaloo that had been raging inside since Friday.

The employee allegedly responsible for the £400 million loss is believed to have run into trouble with about 16,000 outstanding contracts on Nikkei stock index futures, traded on the Singapore International Monetary Exchange and the Osaka stock market.

These contracts change hands for between \$180,000 and \$200,000 apiece, which means that he had close to \$3

billion of Barings money hanging on the line. City sources were indicating that he ran into trouble when the Nikkei index kept falling: they say he invented false contracts to hedge and camouflage his losses, hoping that a recovery in Tokyo share prices would bail him out.

But the Nikkei kept sinking. And now that traders in Tokyo know what has been going on, it is likely to sink further, swelling Barings' losses. That is why the Bank of England was struggling: it must not only find someone to take over Barings' current headaches, it has to guarantee to provide financial painkillers for the migraines that will follow.

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Many sports can be dangerous, but only in boxing does brain damage appear to be the object

Why 'safer' boxing will not prevent head injury

BY DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

THE plight of Gerald McClellan, the boxer injured in Saturday night's fight with Nigel Benn, is little different from that of all the other young men in the head neuro-surgical wards — only the way in which he achieved his injuries separates him from the other patients.

Head injury is the leading cause of death in males under 35. Survival is as much, if not more, dependent on the nature of the injury as on the efficiency of the treatment, so the boxing board's decision to provide medical teams by the ring and ambulances ready to take them to neuro-surgical units will not do any more than modify the chance of survival. Mortality from severe head injuries is up 50 per cent and many of those who live are permanently damaged.

When discussing head injuries previously I have been taken to task by purists for using the term "recovery".



MEDICAL BRIEFING

After a severe head injury the word is relative; some residual damage is inevitable even if it is not readily apparent.

In head injuries the damage is caused not only by the direct impact on the skull but by rapid brain acceleration and deceleration after the head has been hit. The greatest injury may be adjacent to the point of impact but the other side of the brain suffers too: such damage is described as a *contrecoup* injury.

The brain, as the British Medical Association has described, has the consistency of blancmange, so a blow to the head smashes it against the skull opposite the point of impact. The less tightly the brain fits into the bony skull the more room there is for it to slop around within the cavity

and the greater will be the damage to the brain tissue.

Blood vessels will be ruptured, the meninges (coverings) of the brain will be torn and the neurones will be bruised or destroyed. The blood from the haemorrhage accumulates in pockets within the skull, where the clot acts like any other mass, the pressure from which will, if the blood is not evacuated surgically, cause further damage.

There is a school of thought which says that head injuries are common in young men because dangerous sports at that time of life not only reflect their adventurous spirit but are important in forming their character. The argument is that the young men who are prepared to risk their brain

cells motorcycling on the M4, climbing Scottish mountains or boxing are the same people who, if the need arose, would lead their fellows in a yomp across the Falklands. The difference between head injuries acquired in most sporting activities and those from boxing is that brain damage is incidental to motorcycling or mountaineering. In boxing, it would seem to be part of the object to batter an opponent's brain until he is rendered unconscious.

It is argued that if helmets can be designed to absorb the impact when a motorcyclist's head hits the tarmac, and a compulsory hard hat has minimised head injuries when riding, why should it not be possible to design a helmet to render professional boxing safer, if not safe? A helmet could be designed but this would be only part of the answer.

No helmet would overcome the damage caused by the increasing muscular strength of the boxer and his sophis-



John Sutcliffe, the neurosurgeon who operated on Gerald McClellan, at a press conference in London. Surgery has reduced pressure on the boxer's brain, but the next 48 hours are likely to be vital to his chances of survival

cated training, for it is the repeated blows to the head which cause the acceleration and deceleration injuries and it is this pummelling which stirs the blancmange with such terrible results. These injuries would be reduced if there was no dehydration

before weigh-in so that the brain sealed the skull closely, and if the amount of damage done could be reduced by restricting the number of rounds fought.

Gerald McClellan lies in hospital. Pressure on his brain has been reduced by surgery,

his injuries have been mapped out with scanning, his airways have been secured, his respiration assisted, his blood pressure, pulse, temperature and fluid balance are constantly recorded and maintained, but it is only time and, if necessary, further surgery, which

will determine whether he will survive or if he is destined to become another victim of individual combat, just as much a victim as a vanquished bird in a 19th-century cockfight.

Surgeon hopeful, page 1
Srikumar Sen, page 23

Gordievsky tells of fleeing KGB in boot of car

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

OLEG GORDIEVSKY, the former senior KGB officer who defected to Britain in 1985, has disclosed for the first time how he escaped from Moscow when his spymasters suspected him of being an MI6 double agent.

Mr Gordievsky had not been allowed to disclose how he left the Soviet Union with MI6's help because of the risk of compromising an escape route for future defectors. However, in his book to be published next month, he says that he took a train to Leningrad after throwing off his KGB "watchers" and was eventually smuggled into Finland in the boot of a car driven by an MI6 officer and two women.

The disclosure, in a serialised version of his book, *Next Stop Execution*, in *The Sunday Times*, came as Michael Foot issued a writ for libel against the newspaper, which alleged last week that he was considered by the KGB to be an "agent of influence".

The former Labour Party leader, who denies the allegations, said: "No charge could be more damaging for me and for my party. Apart even from oaths of allegiance or anything of that official character, the Labour Party takes a special, legitimate pride in its democratic allegiance, its commitment to serve the people in this country."

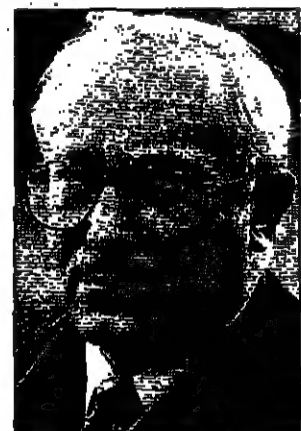
Mr Gordievsky's book will also give details of how he says the KGB tortured him with drugs to make him confess his betrayal. It describes his time as a KGB officer in Denmark, where he became an MI6 double agent, his struggle to get a transfer to the British desk at KGB headquarters in Moscow and his early career in espionage.

When he fled Russia his escape instructions were contained inside two hardback English novels. He says he was told to wait at a street corner, holding a Safeway carrier bag, until his presence was acknowledged by a person who would be "chewing" something as he passed. Then he had to leave a message at St Basil's Cathedral in Red Square.

It took two attempts before MI6 realised he was in trouble and needed to escape. A man carrying a Harrods bag and eating a Mars bar was the first MI6 contact.

Mr Gordievsky said he took a train to Leningrad, picked up a connection to a town called Zelenogradsk and then a bus to Viborg, the town closest to the Finnish border. There he waited for his MI6 contacts in a forest, fearful that the KGB would find him.

He was told later that as he lay in the boot of the car being driven to freedom across the border, "high-powered" officials met in the Foreign Office to "pray" for the success of the operation.



Gordievsky: escape tale

Hong Kong history buff buys barony

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A SCOTTISH castle and barony title has been bought by a Hong Kong solicitor.

Ma Ching Nam has paid £330,000 for the 17th century Mounie Castle near Oldmeldrum, Grampian and the right to call himself Baron Ma of Mounie. He will also be able to apply to the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, for the grant of armorial bearings. The arms can then be inherited by the baron's heirs.

Mr Ma, from Hong Kong's Happy Valley district, said that he was not interested in the title but in the castle's history. "I have lived and travelled quite extensively in the UK and obviously Scotland. There are some very nice parts which was the reason behind buying the castle." The title carries no powers and no right to sit in the House of Lords.

The sale of Mounie, with 15 acres and the barony created a flurry of interest when it was put on the market in Hong Kong by Scottish solicitors for the vendor, a local vet, Jim Martin. Mr Alexander believed that the title was likely to have particular ap-

peal for Hong Kong Chinese after the Hong Kong businesswoman and politician Lydia Ching Nam was created a baroness in 1990. However, in spite of considerable press interest and publicity, there were very few potential buyers, according to Mr Ma. "Some of the reporting put people off."

Hong Kong Chinese and expatriate Scots in the colony alike have been looking for houses in Scotland as hedges against difficulties after the 1997 Chinese takeover. Edinburgh's Georgian New Town has proved particularly attractive.

Mr Ma, who in his mid-forties and is married with a small child, had a look round Mounie last year with his wife. The castle has five bedrooms, a main hall, library, sitting rooms and two bathrooms. He is expected to spend holidays there.

Mr Martin, who served in Hong Kong and the Far East with the Royal Army Veterinary Corps, said: "They were particularly nice. I am delighted to have sold to Mr Ma."

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10.00 Your official welcome to Scotland! This will be accompanied by an overview of the Scottish Software Industry today. Colin Murphy and John McCrae, Head of Scottish Enterprise Software Group.

10.45 A brief summary of financial support and training facilities for software companies in Scotland, by Allan MacCabe, Finance Manager, LIS.

11.15 Depart for Scottish Software Partner Centre.

12.15 Arrive at Scottish Software Partner Centre, near Edinburgh. Lunch with Mike Crawford, Scottish Enterprise Software Officer.

13.00 Tour of Scottish Software Partner Centre, including testimonial visits to Core Systems and RCM. Here you can share and chat with key personnel.

13.45 Depart for Livingston Software Village.

14.00 Arrive Livingston Software Village. Here you will be met by Ken Forster and Paul Lambie, who will lead a tour of the village. A tour of the village will be followed by an introduction to Computer Software Technology for an industrial and information application.

Depart for Glasgow Software Centre.

Arrive at Glasgow Software Centre. A tour of the centre and an introduction to software solutions.

Depart Glasgow Software Centre.

Arrive at Locate in Scotland's HQ. Here you can ask any questions about the day's events at Scotland's Software Industry in general.

Depart for return journey home.

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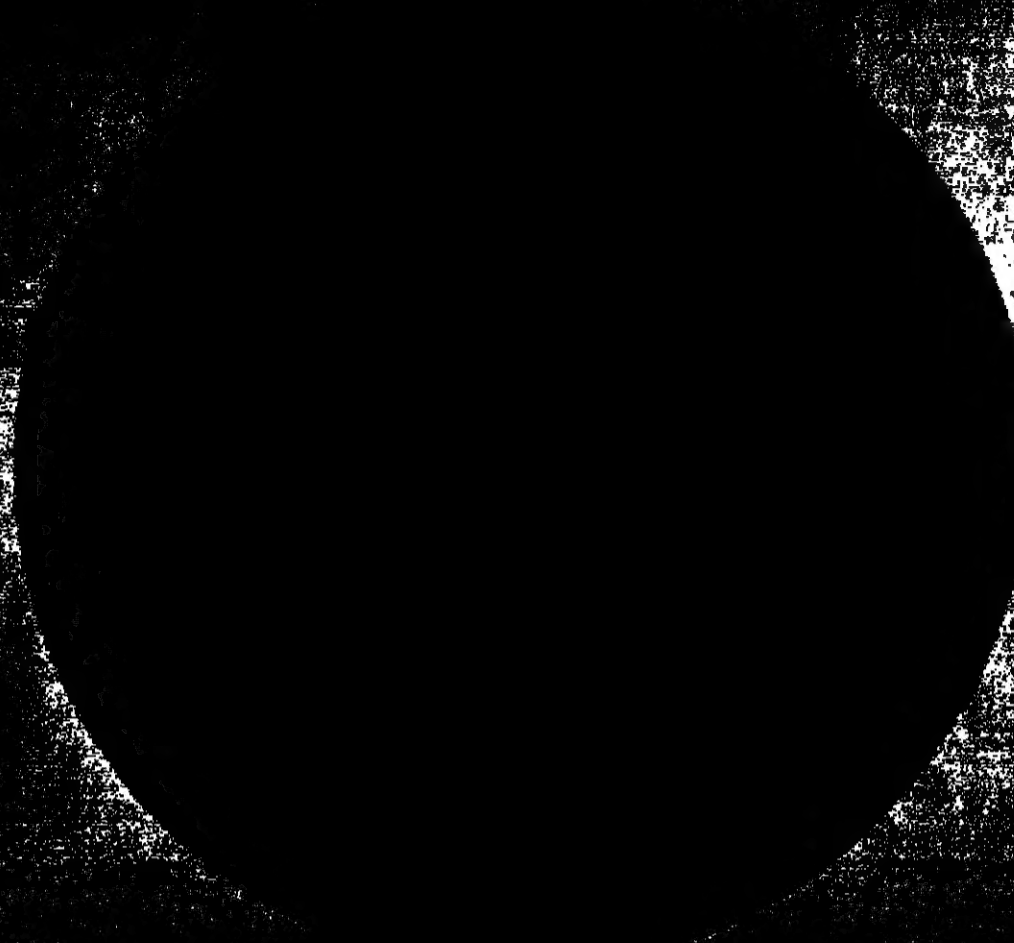
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Attenborough plant series leads BBC bid for sales growth

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

SIR David Attenborough's acclaimed natural history programme *The Private Life of Plants* will this week form the centrepiece of the BBC's biggest independent international sales drive.

The six-part series, which used pioneering time-lapse filming to examine the evolution of plants, goes on sale to foreign television stations today at BBC Showcase in Brighton, the biggest programme market mounted by any single broadcaster. Television stations in Italy, France, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden and China have put in orders worth nearly £1 million for the series, which took three years and cost £3 million to produce and was watched by more than 10 million viewers a week.

Susan Elkington, a sales director at BBC Worldwide Television, the corporation's commercial arm, said natural history programming sold well because its appeal transcended cultural boundaries. "BBC programmes do particularly well in the international

market because our natural history unit in Bristol, which produces them, is light years ahead of anywhere else in terms of technical expertise," she said.

At least four new natural history short series, nine one-off documentaries and a 13-part series of the BBC1 programme *Wildlife on One* will be unveiled. They include *The Man Who Built The Ark*, a 50-minute tribute to the late Gerald Durrell, and *Great White Shark*, an hour-long documentary.

Because it does not date, natural history programming can continue to generate income years after it is screened at home. Sir David's 1993 series on wildlife in Antarctica, *Life in the Freezer*, has been sold to 28 countries and is still bringing in money. The same is true for Desmond Morris's series *The Human Animal*, which has been sold in 16 territories.

"Natural history programmes, like comedy classics such as *Fawlty Towers*, have a very long shelf life. Once the

series has been sold to all terrestrial broadcasters, you can then work through formats such as satellite and cable channels, video and multimedia," Ms Elkington said.

This year's Showcase is of critical importance to the BBC, which is under intense political pressure to fulfil its role as a public service broadcaster producing edifying and educational programmes that also have popular appeal. The Government has told the BBC to exploit the commercial value of its programme library to supplement the income it receives from the licence fee.

The corporation is aiming for programme sales of about £18 million at this year's Showcase from the 600 hours of programming on display. A record 390 buyers from 196 companies in 40 countries will attend. Factual, entertainment and drama programmes made by the BBC will also be on sale, including *The Buccaneers*, the adaptation of Edith Wharton's unfinished novel.

Leading article, page 19



Hardy: convinced English archers were drawn up along the entire battle front

No blood drawn in archery debate New battle of Agincourt ends in convivial truce

BY MARIANNE DARCH

BATTLE plans drawn up between two historical authorities were abandoned yesterday after a compromise was reached in a debate over tactics used by victorious English troops at the Battle of Agincourt in 1415.

Robert Hardy, the actor and authority on archery, who debated the subject with Matthew Bennett, senior lecturer in war studies at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, said: "We are both sensible fellows and I think we are pretty well on the same side of the fence." They had been at odds over differing versions of the English tactics employed against French troops 550 years ago.

On October 25, 1415, the 25,000-strong army of Charles d'Albret, Constable of France, was defeated by an English force less than a quarter of its size, led by Henry V. Victory is credited to muddy conditions and English longbow archers who felled the French cavalry advancing between two woods, forcing them to retreat and become entangled with advancing troops.

Mr Hardy and Mr Bennett.



Bennett: argued that crossfire caught French

concerned to identify the exact position of the archers in the debate "English Archery in the Hundred Years War", organised by the Battlefields Trust, conceded that archers in groups along the flanks of the English frontlines probably dispersed as battle progressed.

Mr Bennett suggested that English men-at-arms were grouped in three phalanxes in the centre of the field with archers on the wings catching French troops in a crossfire.

Mr Hardy believed the archers were spread across the front "in a coronet". He said their average range was 350 yards, which would have made them unable to reach the centre of the enemy advance from peripheral position.

After a detailed discussion, Mr Bennett conceded that the debate had brought a "growing together of opinions". He said: "I am prepared to see some archers in the middle of the formation. I agree that there were not formal wedges. These people were not animated dummies, they did move around. It is important not to be too over-rigid."

Mr Hardy said: "It is important to keep one's mind open. I am glad to be able to embrace a convert. We disagree on very few details now and Agincourt is such a tricky battle."

One fact they did agree on was the inaccuracy in Laurence Olivier's 1944 screen version of Shakespeare's *Henry V*. Mr Hardy said Olivier told him not to refer to "his pretty football match" as an accurate model when making a documentary on the campaign.

Army keeps troops in barracks after deaths

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

SIX hundred British soldiers serving with the Royal Green Jackets in Cyprus have been confined to barracks indefinitely, fearing a local backlash after a hit-and-run accident in which two students were killed.

Police said yesterday that charges would be brought against Lance Corporal Gareth Austin, 25, from Cornwall, whom they alleged ran away after his car collided with the students' moped early on Saturday morning. Khan Athar Hussain, 18, and his cousin Khan Amir, 21, died instantly. Another soldier, Rifleman Graham Beers, 22, was left injured in the passenger seat. He was taken to hospital with minor injuries after passersby raised the alarm.

The coastal strip outside Larnaca where the accident happened is a notorious blackspot where a Green Jacket was killed last year by a drunken Cypriot driver.

Police said they found Mr Austin sleeping at his home in Larnaca a few hours after the accident. He claimed he had fallen asleep at the wheel. The Army confirmed that he had defied a curfew imposed last September in deference to outraged local opinion after the killing of a Danish woman for which three Green Jackets are awaiting trial. The death of Louise Jensen, 23, followed complaints by Cypriots that drunken, ill-disciplined British soldiers were damaging relations with the local community.

On-the-spot fines plan for noisy neighbours

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

ROWDY householders face on-the-spot fines of up to £100 under proposals being drawn up by ministers to curb excessive noise.

The notices, modelled on parking tickets, would be issued by council officials called out to investigate complaints about parties, blaring televisions and music systems and domestic arguments. Disturbances exceeding a fixed decibel level between, say, midnight and 7am, might attract an immediate fine.

The aim is to replace the present cumbersome legal procedure for determining excessive noise with a system that would bring swift relief to victims. During the past three years at least 20 people have lost their lives in noise disputes. Some committed suicide and others were killed during confrontations with neighbours.

Robert Atkins, Environment Minister, is expected to issue a consultation paper within weeks. Legislation could follow in the autumn. The fines are one of the main proposals in a report from a working party, chaired by Mr Atkins and including representatives of the police, councils and Whitehall, which was set up in October.

In the Commons last week, John Major gave his backing to new efforts to curb noise, saying that he had no doubt of the extent of the nuisance caused to many people.

There may be opposition, however, from environmental health officers, who are reluctant to assume new monitoring and enforcement duties.

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RAC says council teams are winning

Capital test scheme eases parking in central London

BY IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

COUNCIL parking attendants are persuading drivers to obey restrictions or leave their cars at home, local authorities in London have found, six months into a trial scheme. "Parking in central London is becoming easier as enforcement is tightened," according to Edmund King of the RAC. "People don't overstay the meter as much as before, they don't feed meters and they stay out of bays where they are not allowed to park." Under the scheme, councils keep the fines collected. Tickets, clamps and tow-away trucks are proving effective.

Under the old regime, enforcement was so lax that people were prepared to take the risk of getting a ticket. Now they are learning it doesn't pay. Motorists who are not used to this tough line are in for quite a shock when the scheme goes nationwide.

Two years ago, the best estimate was that 3.8 million tickets would be issued in the 33 London boroughs each year after the scheme came into operation. Returns on the first six months, since last July, show that about third of that number have in fact been issued — 1.3 million tickets.

In Camden, one of London's busiest areas, the borough last July unofficially set a target of 300,000 tickets a year but in the first six months issued only 171,000. "The likelihood of being caught is now much greater and the number of offences has declined," a council spokesman said.

Camden is in the lead in trying to make parking offenders pay. Only half the tickets issued since July have been paid and the borough is trying to serve enforcement notices, which can lead to county court proceedings if a penalty is ignored. The glut of prosecutions has swamped Camden's computer system, and paper



The warden: upstaged by new regime

work is going astray. Taking responsibility for penalising offenders and collecting fines is meant to help boroughs to fund improved parking facilities and public transport. Councils also keep the profits from meter fees and parking bay permits. They have to strike a delicate balance between scaring off too many motorists and being too lax. "If you over-enforce you drive vehicles away and that is not economical," says Chris Page, of Granada Parking Services, one of the three main private contractors.

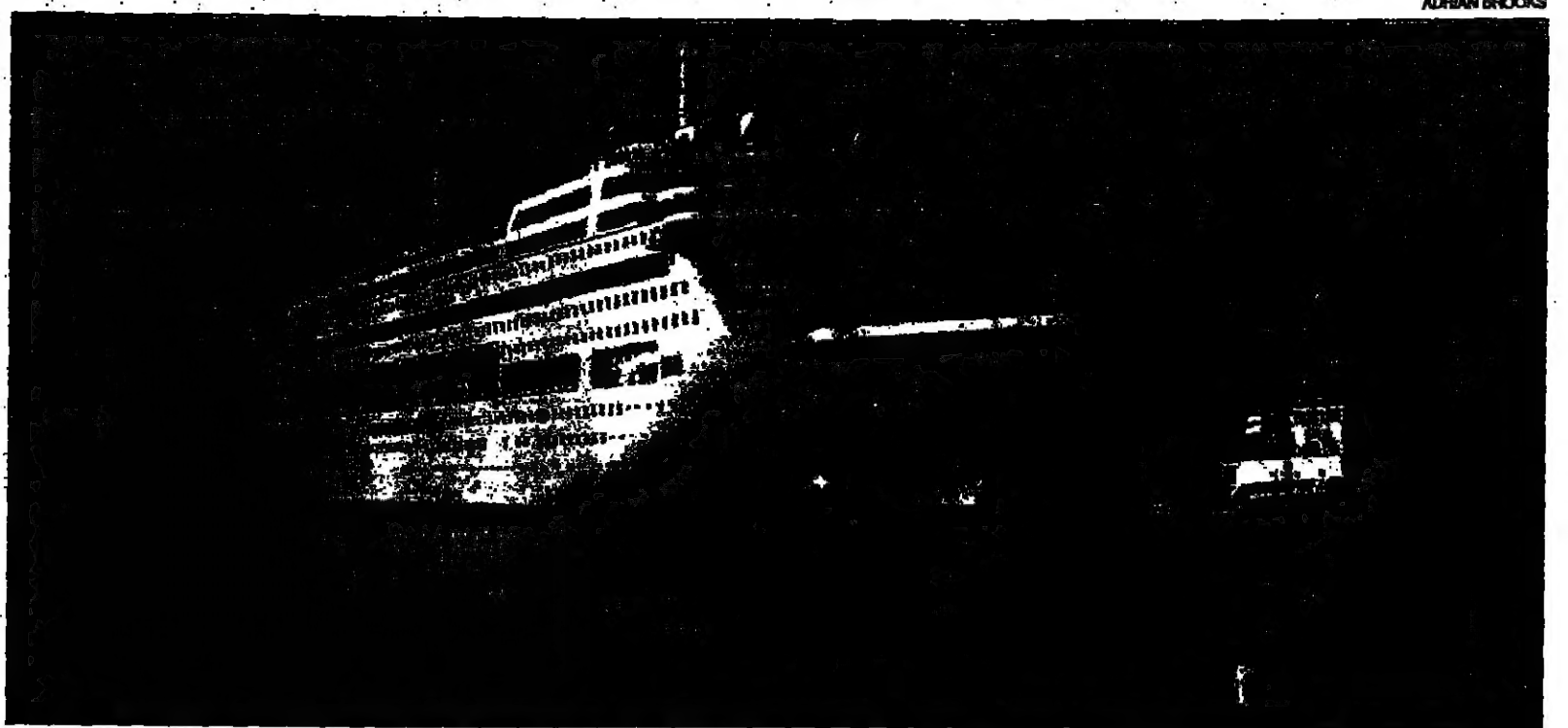
He denies that there is any kind of quota for issuing tickets although Granada has negotiated some contracts where the firm keeps a percentage of penalty charges. Elsewhere, there is an expected "industry norm" of tickets. Granada has won a contract from Avon County Council to patrol Bristol and Bath.

Sureway Parking, the third big contractor, also insists there is no quota system. "There is no proof it works for companies who try it," a spokesman says. "Our contracts work on the principles of easing traffic flow. Tickets are not issued on the basis that they raise money."

Each week about 50,000

tickets are issued in London's 33 boroughs and each week 300 aggrieved motorists appeal against them to the Parking Appeals Centre. Most appeals are handled by an adjudicator reading evidence supplied by both sides but about ten times a day an appellant feels sufficiently aggrieved to turn up in person to argue the case.

In the year since the centre opened, Caroline Sheppard, a barrister who is chief adjudicator, and her team of part-time assistants have found in favour of the motorist about 60 per cent of the time. Usually those who lose an appeal pay their fine before leaving the centre and some even send a letter thanking her for explaining the regulations. Unlike any other court in England, the centre does not work on the adversarial process. Miss Sheppard adopts a confidential, friendly approach, like a consultant giving advice to a client.



A tug guides the new P&O flagship Oriana along the River Ems yesterday after the cruise vessel left the shipyard in Papenburg

Oriana makes slow progress on maiden voyage

FROM TIM JONES
IN PAPENBURG, GERMANY

BRITAIN'S newest superliner, the 69,153 tonne, 850ft *Oriana*, yesterday began her first and most critical voyage. The fastest cruise ship built for more than a quarter of a century, with an operating speed of 24 knots, was reduced to a crawl as she edged down the River Ems through northern Germany to the open sea. Although the narrow river had been

dredged to accommodate her, P&O's new flagship had to shed weight to reach the sea 30 miles away. Oil and water were pumped out and her 14 lifeboats taken off and followed like ducklings.

Even so, the £200 million liner had only inches to spare as tugs pulled her on a dawn high tide to Leer, 13 miles away. That short maiden voyage took more than three and a half hours as Friedhelm Husemeyer, the chief pilot, guided her through the

narrow channel. At one point the keel scraped the bottom in spite of heavy rain having raised the level by three inches. Electricity supplies to a large part of Lower Saxony had to be rerouted to allow power cables crossing the river to be tied and bunched together, giving the ship's yellow funnel an extra nine inches of clearance. Later, she passed with only feet to spare between the arches of a railway bridge that had had to be dismantled. The departure of the ship

was marked by a day of celebration. People travelled from hundreds of miles and as dawn broke more than 50,000 lined the river bank.

When she arrived at Leer, the *Oriana* had to tie up for eight hours to await the next tide before sailing to Emden and the open sea. From there, Ian Gibb, the ship's captain, will take her for sea trials before she is handed over to P&O on March 24 and named by the Queen at Southampton on April 6.

The ruthless parking attendant at work:

■ Residents in a narrow Ealing street issued with tickets at last for parking overnight with two wheels on the pavement.
■ A woman aged 93 had her car towed away at night to an ill-lit pound near King's Cross where she was too frightened to go and claim it.

■ Mothers given tickets while dropping children at school in Kensington.

■ Camden resident given ticket because six inches of his car, parked on his own land, were sticking out over the pavement.

■ Motorists posted tickets after stopping for seconds at East Croydon station to let out passengers. This has been stopped.

■ Woman required to pay pound removal fee of £125 after her car had been moved from a legal parking spot by vandals.

■ Kensington parking bays too short to take average car, but motorists given tickets because vehicles overlapped line. Bays being remeasured.

■ Confusion in Lincoln's Inn Field, which is in both Westminster and Camden, with different regulations on each side of same street. Motorists penalised for parking in one borough and inadvertently buying pay-and-display ticket in the other.

The motorist's imagination at work:

■ A lift engineer claimed he had been flagged down to rescue a mother and child trapped in a high-rise lift: a motorist said he had mental blackouts which prevented him remembering if he had put money in a meter — and was cured when told he might lose his licence on medical grounds.

Minister launches pollution purge

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

A PACKAGE of tough new measures to cut pollution and force dirty cars and lorries off the road will be unveiled today by the Transport Secretary, Dr Brian Mawhinney.

Permanent checkpoints are to be set up in "blackspots" and police given additional powers to order drivers of the worst vehicles off the road immediately. The measures are part of a significant shift towards a greener policy for transport of all types in the wake of the recent report by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

The quickest and most obvious improvement — and one which the Government is convinced will receive widespread support — is a crackdown on fumes given off by buses, lorries and cars. All older vehicles are tested for emissions during the MOT test but many drivers ignore the problem between tests.

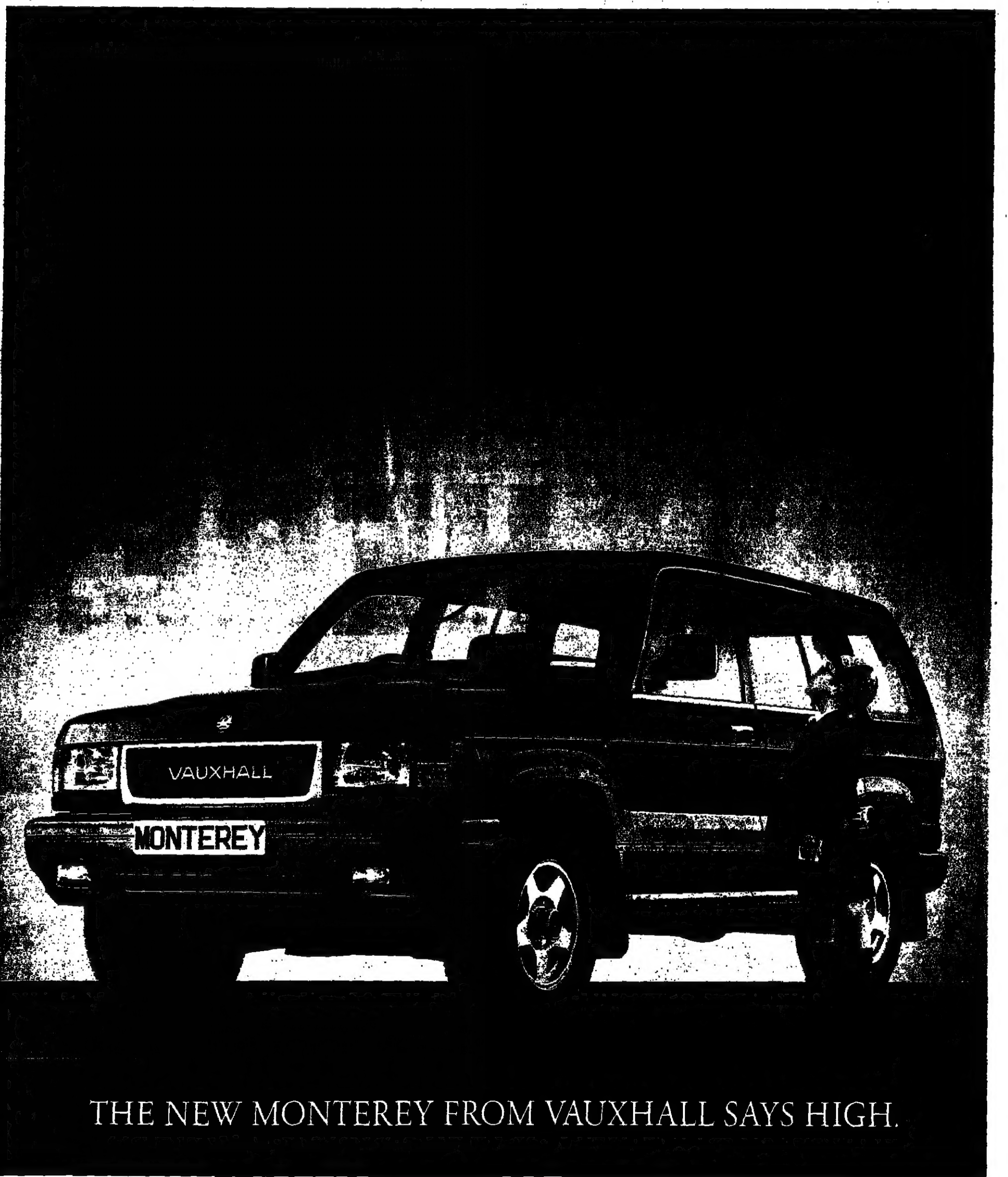
The report, published in October, challenged the policy of building more roads to meet the potential growth in traffic and put forward a range of proposals both for reducing air and noise pollution and preventing the further loss of countryside.

Ministers were shaken by the gloomy picture of pollution and environmental damage painted by the commission

and immediately decided to test public reaction to the report and to take the views of peaceful environmental groups much more seriously. Dr Mawhinney will outline his proposals in a speech to the pressure group Transport 2000 and announce them formally later in the day. Dr Mawhinney, a scientist with a specialist knowledge of radiology, is also a former health minister and has been making it clear in recent months that the transport industry must clean itself up voluntarily or face increasingly tough legislation.

Last week he warned more than 250 leaders of the aviation industry that they could no longer expect to ride roughshod over the environment. He surprised them with the strength of his determination not to give his automatic backing to airport developments and to give environmental considerations just as much, if not more, weight as economics. "I am not a wimp in this," he told them. "I am a realist. We are entering a changed world."

Within hours Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of British Airways, told the Chartered Institute of Transport that the aviation industry would not be able to get away with inconsiderate development.



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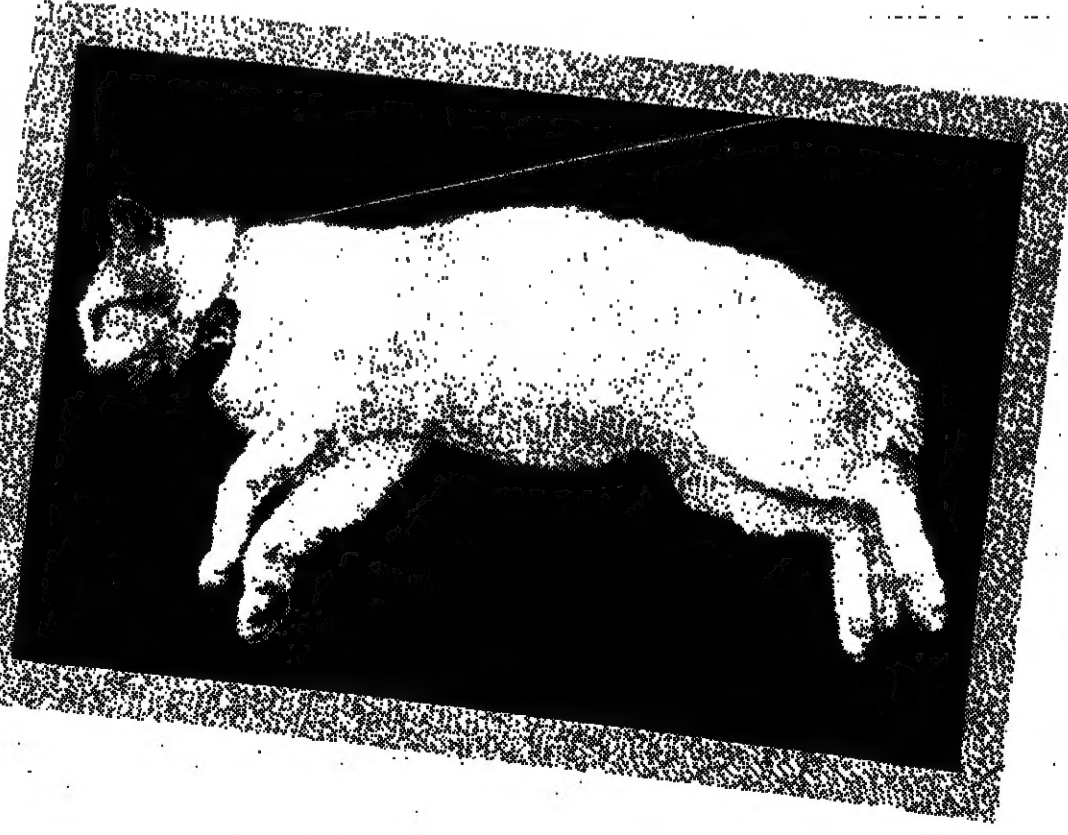
Prices range from £21,675 for the 3 door RS to £26,700 for the 5 door Diamond 3.2i V6 auto.

For further information on the new heights 4x4s have reached, contact your local Vauxhall dealer or telephone 0800 444 200.



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Blair
fight
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Chefs
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Touring leader confronts the doubters in effort to ditch commitment to privatisation

Blair relishes the fight for Labour hearts and minds

By Jill Sherman
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

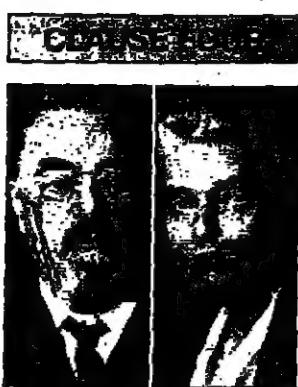
TONY BLAIR'S attempt to ditch Clause Four, the cornerstone of the Labour Party's constitution, will be put to its first real test this week. The first stage of the consultation exercise ends on Friday when constituents and trade unionists submit their views on what the rewritten clause should say.

After a hectic recent schedule in which the Labour leader has argued his case in Bournemouth, Cardiff and Bristol, Mr Blair has completed the first phase of his regional tour to convince members of the need to drop the nationalisation clause. Having addressed 30,000 members at 25 meetings in the past six weeks, he claims to have embarked on the biggest consultation exercise in the party's history.

His efforts suffered a setback yesterday when delegates at the party's London Regional Council backed a union move to block the reforms. About 300 delegates voted by 58.7 per cent to 41.3 per cent to support a motion proposed by the RMT rail union. Mr Blair may take some comfort from the voting of constituency parties, which opposed the motion by 59.3 per cent to 40.7 per cent.

Over the next two weeks Mr Blair and John Prescott, the deputy leader, will draft their version of Clause Four, to go to Labour's National Executive Committee on March 13. The critical vote, on which Mr Blair has effectively staked his leadership, will come at a conference on April 29.

He is expected to win the support of the trade unions but needs strong constituency backing to convince the electorate that Labour is ready to change, and to prevent the Conservatives from claiming that the party is still dependent on the unions. Judging by two hostile meetings in Cardiff and Bristol on Friday night, and a mixed reception in Bournemouth last Thursday, Mr Blair has his work cut out. But he appears to thrive on it. The master of the delicate put-down, he can turn most gibes to his advantage. He uses first names (taking a note



Clause Four, devised by Sidney and Beatrice Webb, above, in 1918, makes state control of industry and commerce one of the main objects of the party. The key paragraph states:

"To secure for the workers by hand or brain the full fruits of their industry and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible on the basis of common ownership of the means of production and exchange, and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each industry or service."

of name and question) and likes to be direct. When he is annoyed he prefaces the answer with "to be blunt" and accuses the questioner of talking nonsense or being ridiculous. After someone has spoken at length against his proposals, he smiles politely and says with heavy irony: "John, I gather you're not wholly in favour of change."

At the Aztec Hotel in Bristol on Friday night he was in his element. The 200 or so party members accused him of fudging rail privatisation policy, of refusing to listen, of making U-turns, of playing by his own rules, of destroying party unity, of discarding essential Labour principles and of "sacrificing Clause 4 on the altar of change".

Many were young, including students. Others were older, traditional hardliners. Several were angry that Mr Blair had chosen to hold the special conference on April 29, days before the local government elections, when party members should be busy campaigning.

Some criticised his stand on grant-maintained schools, while others challenged him on Labour's policy on the water industry.

Adrian Becker, from Kingswood, asked why Mr Blair had changed his mind since saying during his leadership campaign that scrapping Clause Four was not a priority. Mr Blair, who only 50 minutes earlier had been fielding similar taunts in Cardiff, said that it had not been a priority at the time. "But I also said that it was a priority to be absolutely clear about what the Labour Party stands for. My view then came to be that it is through the constitution that clarity and identity can be honestly expressed. It is for you to decide if what is there now really expresses what you believe in. If it does, fine—but I bet you it doesn't."

Mr Blair has said that Clause Four, if taken literally, means that everything in the private sector should be nationalised, including small businesses. He pledges that the new clause would contain a commitment to public ownership, but that he also supports a thriving private sector. He says that Labour will not renationalise privatised utilities because it would be too expensive.

On rail he is less succinct. Phil Bialyk, of the RMT, accused him of fudging rail policy and challenged him to declare that Labour would return the railways to public control. Mr Blair seemed irritated. "Phil, I say this to you bluntly. It is not a question of fudging at all. It is a question of understanding that if you are going to be honest with people, our commitment to a publicly owned and publicly accountable railway will have to take account of what they [the Tories] manage to do over the next few years."

After the meeting, which earned a standing ovation from about a third of the members, the young enthused. "He was brilliant. He was so direct. He didn't dodge any questions. He explained everything really clearly," one Bristol University student said. Others had a different view. Adrian Becker said: "He didn't answer any questions. He told us nothing about policy... He keeps talking about the need to build up trust with the electorate. Yet we do nothing but change."

At the end of each session, Mr Blair manages to change the tempo with a visionary message in a final effort to woo his audience. In Cardiff he used his final words to give perhaps the most honest answer to what has driven him during his 25 meetings. "Ever since I became leader of the Labour party I have been haunted by one simple thought: that I never ever want to wake up on the day after that election and think if I had only taken that decision it could have been different. I never want to wake up to another defeat and I never want to wake up to the fact that I know in my heart of hearts that I bottled out of something that could have made a significant difference."



Tony Blair addressing Labour members in Bristol on Friday. Master of the delicate put-down, he can turn most gibes to his advantage

Constituency support is key to credibility

By Jill Sherman

THE Transport and General Workers Union, with about 14 per cent of the vote, is the only big union which might defy the Labour leader on April 29. The trade unions account for 70 per cent of the vote, with constituency parties holding 30 per cent.

While Mr Blair looks set to win on April 29, a good showing from the

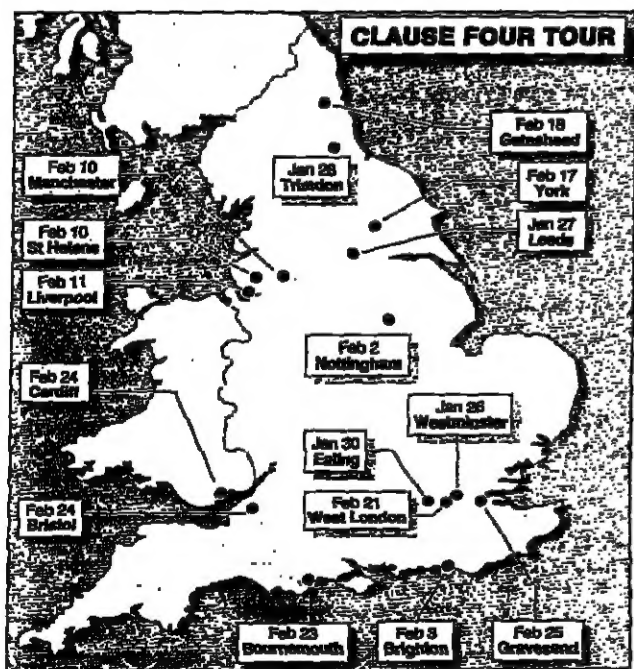
constituencies, which were responsible for the leadership's narrow defeat on Clause Four at last year's party conference, is also vital to convince the electorate that Mr Blair has the backing of his own members to modernise the party.

Mr Blair now hopes that if enough constituencies ballot their membership over the revised wording he will stop headline party activists hijacking

the constituency response. This week all unions will be assessing their own consultation exercises before drawing up their draft wording to submit to the NEC before March 5. Most of the largest unions have sent out the Labour Party's consultation document to their regions.

Unison, the public service union with 12 per cent of the vote, defied the leadership in the party conference vote

on Clause Four, but both party and union sources expect it to change its mind on April 29. Tom Sawyer, Labour's new general secretary, was the former deputy leader at Unison and will undoubtedly put pressure on the union. If two of the three biggest unions back Mr Blair he should be home and dry. The GMB general union, with about 12 per cent of the vote, backed Mr Blair at conference.



Chefs prepare to repel Chinese truffle pirates

By Robin Young

BRITISH restaurateurs have been warned to be on their guard against Chinese piracy in the truffle trade.

An invasion of inferior Chinese truffles has excited a furore in France. Now there are fears that the cheats will turn their attention to the less-knowledgeable market in Britain, hoping for quick profits before their deception is detected here.

The basis of the fraud is the almost perfect similarity between the famous French black truffle, *tuber melanosporum*, as unearthed by foragers trained pigs and dogs in the Dordogne and Provence, and its Chinese relative, *tuber himalayensis*.

In appearance they can only be accurately distinguished when the spores are examined under a microscope. But in taste and aroma the two are, the French insist, worlds apart. Unlike the strong, pervasive aroma and pungent savour of the French truffle, the Chinese substitute

has little scent and virtually no taste. French experts complain that it even becomes unpleasant after a few days, and is therefore a danger to cuisine rather than an aid.

Unscrupulous dealers have been cheating by dousing the Chinese fungi in truffle-scented oil, or by packing them in containers with a top layer of the genuine French article. The potential for profit is considerable, because French truffles sell for £900 a kilogram (or more than £25 an ounce). Chinese truffles are available at little more than a sixth of that.

The French federation of truffle producers says that in the past two years several hundred tons of truffles have been flown in from the provinces of Shandong and Sichuan. This year, they claim, Chinese truffles have become a plague, and many are being re-exported to potentially lucrative markets such as Britain, which now has more Michelin three-star restaurants than any other

country outside France. "Gastronomic pretensions in Britain make the country an ideal target for the fraudsters," a federation spokesman said yesterday. "The truth is that most British chefs shown a Chinese truffle and a French one would have no idea how to tell the difference."

Michel Rostang, a Paris chef, said: "The only way to know the difference is to have a trained palate and to taste and identify the product before buying. It is not a very practical way to enforce honesty in business, but it is becoming necessary."

Britain's own most well-known truffle hound, Antonio Carluccio of the Neal Street Restaurant and the television programme *A Passion for Mushrooms*, said: "The black truffle season is almost ending now, so if anybody comes selling anything at the back door this late in the year, maybe they will be Chinese truffles that they are offering. I would be interested to see one."

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TMS/PCC

Clinton to review policy of race and gender quotas

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN A new measure of the political upheaval rocking Washington, President Clinton has taken the risky step of ordering a review of government programmes that extend preferential treatment to minorities and women.

He has been forced to act by attacks on quotas by Republicans who were swept to victory in Congress last November on a tide of votes from angry white men. The President's move could pre-empt a shift away from a basic tenet of Democratic policy for the past 30 years.

White male fury has been provoked by examples of government contracts going to firms managed by blacks and women to the exclusion of companies offering lower bids but run by white men. There are growing complaints of "reverse discrimination", a new bias in which whites are disregarded because they are not black, Hispanic or female.

The policy was enshrined by liberals in the aftermath of the 1964 Civil Rights Act and was

intended to make up for years of discrimination against blacks, starting with slavery. Women were added later as the feminist revolution took hold. The programmes are not called what they are — quotas and preferences. Instead, they have the opaque name of "affirmative action", a term dating from the Kennedy era.

Since then, quotas boosting affirmative action have been written into hundreds of federal laws. The Pentagon sets aside 5 per cent of its contracts for supplies, research, construction and maintenance to "socially and economically disadvantaged individuals". Federal agencies are encouraged to deposit funds in banks owned by women and minorities. A portion of all government research grants goes to black universities. Preferences extend to housing and tax breaks. Whites are beginning to ask: where will it end?

Mr Clinton denies that he is backing away from equal opportunities for all Americans. He simply thinks that

after three decades the programmes should be re-examined. "It's time to ask: do they work, are they fair, do they achieve the desired objectives?" he said.

Black leaders are on alert. Kweisi Mfume, a Democratic member of Congress, said he would organise a national campaign to protect affirmative action. Conservatives, by contrast, say Mr Clinton is desperately trying to buy time to stem further white flight from the Democrats.

In California, Governor Pete Wilson formally endorsed a proposed ballot initiative at the weekend that would repeal the state's own affirmative action laws by banning racial and gender preferences in hiring, contracting and college admissions.

His support, welcomed by conservative Republicans, was also a signal that he could be laying out his stance for a national agenda should he decide to seek the party's presidential nomination.



George Burns shown on a giant television monitor receiving a standing ovation as he accepts a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Screen Actors' Guild in Los Angeles. The veteran actor and comedian, 99, was too frail to leave

Actors honour comic Burns

his seat at the Saturday night ceremony, the first of what is to be an annual event. Tom

Hanks was named outstanding actor in a leading role for *Forrest Gump*. Jodie Foster received the best actress award for *Nell*, a story of a woman learning to live in civilised society after growing up in the wild. (Reuters)

Arrests point to conspiracy in Mexico killing

BY DAVID ADAMS

ALMOST a year after the assassination of Mexico's leading presidential candidate, government investigators have revived the theory that his death was the result of a political conspiracy, possibly hatched within his own ruling party.

New arrests at the weekend have undermined the contention that Luis Donaldo Colosio was killed by a lone assassin. Mario Aburto, who fired at Colosio during an election rally in the northern city of Tijuana on March 23, was arrested at the scene and sentenced to 25 years in jail last December.

At the weekend, government agents arrested Othon Cortes Vázquez, a former employee of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), who is accused of being a second gunman in the shooting. Also under arrest is Fernando de la Sota, who is suspected of tampering with evidence.

Both were arrested on the testimony of three witnesses, a video of the rally, and new evidence collected by the third special prosecutor assigned to the case.

The evidence suggests that the two bullets could not have been fired by the same man, since they hit opposite sides of Colosio's body. Investigators

had earlier provided the unlikely explanation that the assassinated candidate had turned in the split second between the two shots.

"The hypothesis is unsustainable that there was a lone killer, and there is no doubt that the scene of the crime was manipulated," said Antonio Lozano, the Attorney-General. "The murder was the result of action by various individuals," he said, adding that the video evidence "clearly shows collusion between several people".

President Zedillo, who was the campaign manager for Colosio, has pledged to clean up the PRI and bring greater democracy to Mexico. He wants a full investigation into the killing, only one of the darker episodes of 1994. The year also brought a prolonged peasant insurrection in the southern state of Chiapas and the unravelling of the country's economic boom.

With Mexico's financial markets in turmoil and the Government apparently preparing to launch a series of economic austerity measures, including tough budget cuts and tax increases, the news of a possible plot within the PRI to kill Colosio, and a subsequent cover-up, is likely to add to a rising mood of anger and instability.

Satellite fallout endangers spacecraft

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

RADIOACTIVE leaks from discarded Soviet spy satellites are threatening other spacecraft orbiting the Earth.

The *New York Times* reported yesterday that NASA scientists had identified nuclear reactors aboard defunct Soviet spy satellites as the source of tens of thousands of tiny droplets flying through space at enormous speeds.

Although liquid and only about the size of a coin, the droplets threaten to damage navigation, surveillance and weather satellites in the crowded 600-mile-high orbit. That could create more debris which could, in turn, crash into more spacecraft.

Using a 100ft dish radar in Massachusetts, NASA has detected 70,000 particles, and believes there may be millions more.

The droplets are made of a radioactive and corrosive coolant — a mixture of sodium and potassium in liquid metal form — used in nuclear reactors. But the danger comes from their speed.

The Soviet Union launched 33 nuclear-powered spy satellites. NASA scientists believe 66lbs of reactor coolant has already leaked from them and that much more could escape.

Experts say the droplets are not large enough to shatter a satellite completely, but could damage fragile parts like sensors and solar energy panels. The result is that designers will now have to add new shields to protect satellites. NASA's planned space station will be safe, because it will orbit at a lower altitude.

Nato chief sees army threat in Russia

BY MICHAEL EVANS DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

POLITICAL instability in Russia poses the greatest threat for Nato in northwest Europe, a senior RAF commander said yesterday on the eve of a huge alliance military exercise. Exercise Strong Resolve 95, involving 22,000 Nato soldiers, will begin on Thursday in central Norway.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, Commander-in-Chief of RAF Strike Command at High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire and also Commander-in-Chief Allied Forces Northwest Europe, said the worst scenario could involve the Russian military, in the event of a political collapse.

Sir Richard said: "They [the Russians] still retain the largest army within Europe. It is a very large and powerful force." Their rapid mobilisation in Chechnya to take on the rebels was impressive.

Although he said there was no threat to Nato at present, Sir Richard emphasised the importance of maintaining a strong alliance. Nato's mission had changed "dramatically". He said: "We can't let it become a paper tiger."

Making a rare statement on the threats facing his area of Nato command, Sir Richard also issued a warning of the environmental risk posed by atomic and chemical waste in Russia's Arctic regions. Norway is the only Nato nation bordering Russia whose Arctic Kola Peninsula has the biggest concentration of atomic warheads in the world and ageing nuclear power plants. Sir Richard said: "It is a real problem and potentially a very serious one."

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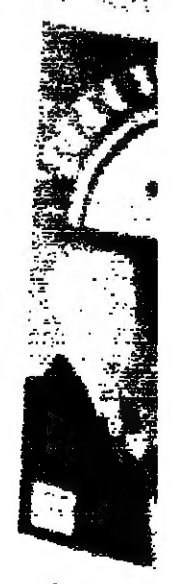
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China will purge pirates after deal to halt trade war

FROM JAMES FRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA will create task forces to combat intellectual property pirates and launch raids to destroy fake goods from March 1 under a pact with the United States to avert a trade war, American officials said yesterday.

Peking and Washington averted a bruising commercial confrontation by signing an agreement to strengthen safeguards against intellectual property piracy in China and widen market access for American companies just hours after a deadline for the imposition of sanctions.

The cliffhanger accord creates task forces throughout China with authority to search premises and destroy manufacturing equipment, the officials said.

Charlene Barshefsky, the Deputy American Trade Representative, said that China had agreed to abolish import quotas and many other import barriers for American intellectual property, particularly recorded music and film, with immediate effect.

"It [the accord] creates a system of task forces throughout the country which has brought authority to search premises, review business records, preserve evidence, destroy goods, destroy equipment used in the manufacture of infringing goods, to order infringement to stop, and to refer cases for criminal prosecution," she said. An intensive six-month period of raids would begin next month.

against all suspected infringers, including compact disc, laser disc and CD-Rom factories. Those still in operation would be punished through seizure and forfeiture of products.

Ms Barshefsky hailed the deal as historic. Wu Yi, the Chinese Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation, said that it marked a turning point in often turbulent Sino-American ties.

The signing of the agreement, a full ten hours after expiry of the deadline, meant that the two countries had drawn back from a further serious downturn in relations that are troubled over human rights, arms control and the possible appointment of a new US Ambassador who takes a hard line on Peking at a time of internal uncertainty in both China and America.

The breakthrough in the latest round of negotiations, which began on February 14, may have come just hours short of yesterday's final session over China's counterfeiting of American copyrights, trade marks and patents before mutual trade sanctions would have come into effect. China announced that it was closing two factories which have been flooding Asian markets with pirated videos and music.

One of the factories, Shenfei, which American officials say is the most flagrant violator of China's anti-piracy laws, is based in the

booming city of Shenzhen, adjoining Hong Kong, and has produced counterfeit laser discs of Steven Spielberg's hit film, *Jurassic Park*, among many others.

In Peking, there is a virtual paralysis of government as the life of Deng Xiaoping, 90, the paramount leader, apparently nears its end.

In Washington, President Clinton faces a Republican-dominated Congress reluctant to make concessions to the Communist rulers in Peking. "The Chinese only gave ground as they came down to the line," one foreign commercial attaché in Peking said. "At the last moment, they saw the Americans were determined to go the whole way and gave them a facesaver to call off a trade war."

More than \$2 billion (£1.28 billion) in tit-for-tat trade sanctions would have taken effect last night if the two sides had failed to reach agreement.



A fishing boat puts to sea from Phu Quoc, a sleepy island off the southwestern coast of Vietnam with just six cars, unpaved roads and four hours of electricity on a good day. The island is to be transformed into an international financial centre at a cost of £630 million. Mekong Holdings, a Vancouver-based investment firm, is expecting the go-ahead soon.

Sleepy island means business

national financial centre at a cost of £630 million. Mekong Holdings, a Vancouver-based investment firm, is expecting the go-ahead soon.

from Hanoi for its subsidiary, Phu Quoc Island Development, to draw up a master plan that will include a port, airport and export

processing zone. But the idea of an offshore tax haven has encountered some scepticism. "Vietnam is still coming to grips with the idea of on-shore banking, let alone anything else," one Western banker said. (AFP)

Russian extremist arrives in Baghdad

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER
MIDDLE EAST
CORRESPONDENT

THE Russian ultra-nationalist leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, arrived in Baghdad yesterday with a 50-strong delegation, including 20 members of parliament. He announced that he wanted President Saddam Hussein to join a new coalition against the West.

The leader of the extreme Liberal Democratic Party said he would work for the lifting of United Nations sanctions imposed on Iraq in 1990, and spoke of the high esteem in which he held the Iraqi leader.

Mr Zhirinovskiy, whose party took a quarter of the votes in the last parliamentary election, said the delegation would hold talks with the ministries of oil, agriculture, trade, finance, defence and education.

□ Moscow: Russia reassured Iran yesterday that it would go ahead with a \$500 million agreement to build nuclear reactors for Teheran, despite fierce American opposition.

Spy row blamed on unsporting French

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE French were portrayed as bad losers yesterday in the latest twist to the commercial spying row involving five CIA agents in Paris.

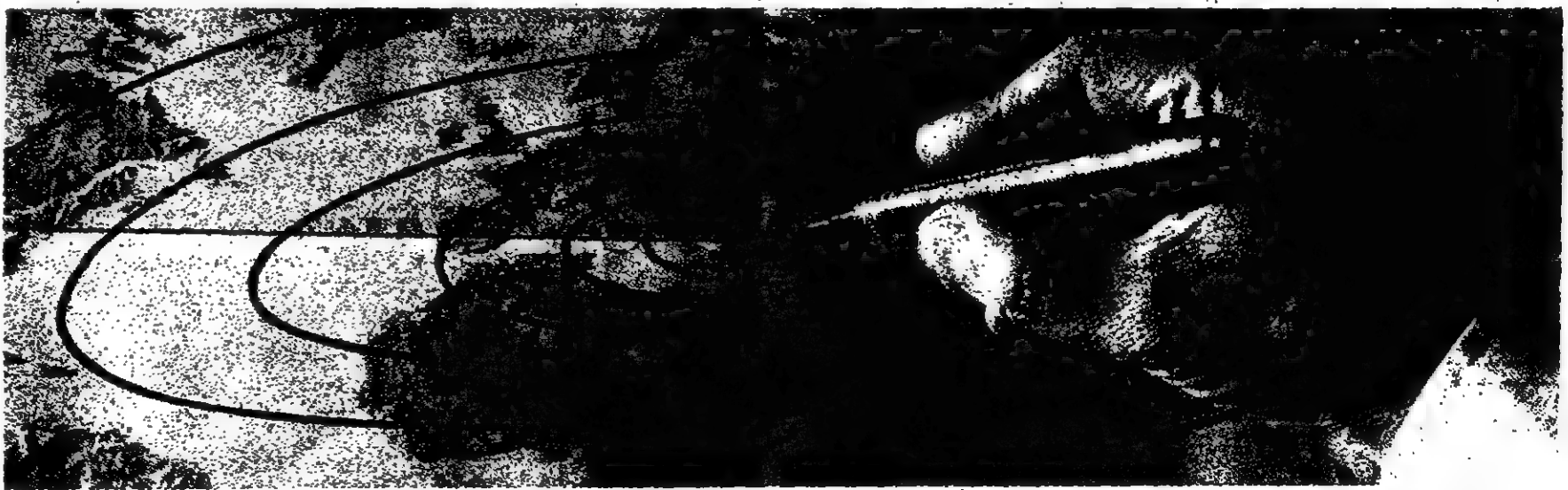
It was suggested that last week's extraordinary public clash between the old allies may have been provoked by two recent American coups in the world of industrial espionage, both serious setbacks for the French.

One was America's success in persuading Saudi Arabia to buy 50 airliners from Boeing and McDonnell Douglas instead of from the Airbus consortium. The Washington Post, reporting from Paris, said the Americans employed a large string of CIA agents, and the eavesdropping network of the National Security Agency, to sniff out French bribes and generous financing terms. In clinching the deal,

worth \$6 billion (£3.87 billion), President Clinton offered substantial loan guarantees to the Saudis through the US Government's Export-Import Bank.

Another blow to the French was the loss of a project worth \$1.4 billion to build a high-tech radar system in the Amazon basin. CIA reports of French bribes to Brazilian officials were revealed to the Brazilian Government and the deal switched from the French electronics Thomson CSF to its American rival, Raytheon Corp. □ Taipei: A \$1.9 billion missile deal between Taiwan and France will go ahead despite the expulsion of the Americans by France for economic espionage, including trying to block the deal, the Taiwan Air Force Commander-in-Chief, Tang Fei, said here. (AFP)

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Carmichael (pictured), it takes the listener back to the 1930s and the elegant world of Lord Peter Wimsey who has just married the elegant Harriet Vane. Everything is perfect when they arrive at their honeymoon cottage, but the owner is nowhere to be found. Later, his body is discovered in the cellar.

Buy *Busman's Honeymoon* for £16.95 and for 20p you could hear Stephen Thorne read Ellis Peters' *Saint Peter's Fair* (ABC 550 - £14.95 - 8 cassettes). The great annual fair at Shrewsbury attracts merchants from far and wide, but a riot breaks out after an unseemly quarrel between townspeople and Benedictine monks over the levies it brings in. When a merchant is found dead, Brother Cadfael is summoned from his peaceful monastery herb garden to find the killer.

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FROM SAM KILEY IN MOGADISHU AND MICHAEL EVANS

Yesterday political difference between the two broke into open warfare as Mr Osman sent his own battle wagons to drive General Aidid's militia away from the



million (£3.20 million) in severance pay to its Somali employees and contractors. Since 1992, the UN's operation in Somalia has cost more than \$2 billion. Much of it has found its way into the coffers of the alliance.

**FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN
IN CAPE TOWN**

The ANC argues that time and changed circumstances have removed the need for mediation. But the ANC and the former ruling National Party did sign a pre-election agreement with Chief Buthelezi which provided for such mediation. It was that deal, *An Agreement for Peace and*

Earlier, he had responded to a question from a British reporter by fulminating that the "Caucasian mind" obviously had

when it seemed that he could not get his way in the multiparty negotiations, he boycotted them.

Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, also said that her official visit mainly to attend the Pan African Film and Television Festival in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, could not be cancelled at the last minute as it would damage South Africa's standing in West Africa. (AFP)

Jerusalem: Extreme right-wing Jews have failed in a legal attempt to prevent the appointment of a new Israeli spy-master, regarded as the country's leading expert on Jewish terrorism (Christopher Walker writes).

• Identifiable only as "K", the new head is to take control of

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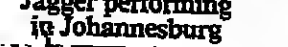
FROM RELTER IN KARACHI

last week in a case that inflamed Muslim extremists, were free and at an undisclosed location yesterday. (AP)

found an abandoned British Second World War lorry in perfect working order in the desert 1,200 miles south of the battlefields of El-Alamein, the *Al-Nasr* newspaper said. The lorry, used for decades by snakes as a refuge, will go to a war museum. (AFP)

FROM REUTER IN JOHANNESBURG

Earlier this month Winnie Mandela, the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, called the Rolling Stones racists for using a white promoter for the South African tour.



Earlier this month Winnie Mandela, the Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, called the Rolling Stones racists for using a white promoter for the South African leg of their show. Asked at a press conference if he considered himself a racist and if he had tried the local marijuana, Jagger re-

Scandal-hit González fights for his moment in the European spotlight



González faded image of modernising leader

A GAGGLE of camera crews keeps a permanent vigil these days just off a pretty square in central Madrid. Much of the day they bask in the strong winter sunshine but they snap to attention when a car pulls up outside the Audiencia Nacional, the high court.

In a well-worn ritual, out jump lawyers and then the latest high official to be grilled by Baltasar Garçon, the glossy young "super-judge" who, along with fellow investigators, is busy demolishing the authority of the Government of Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister for the past 12 years. Sometimes the VIP leaves not by the front door, but from the back inside

Spain's Prime Minister, in a Nixon-like display, is doggedly defying judges and media, Charles Bremner in Madrid writes

a white police van that takes him to "preventive detention".

Such was the case last week when Rafael Vera, the minister who ran Spain's anti-terrorist drive for the past decade, and a high Socialist politician were locked up on charges of organising the death squads that killed 27 people in an underground war with Basque terrorists in the 1980s. The pair were the latest distinguished jail birds in a series of

scandals that seems to be bringing the González era to a slow and painful close.

The operative word is slow, because Señor González, 52, is determined to weather the storm which, 20 months after squeaking to his fourth consecutive election victory, has robbed him of the respect and affection that he enjoyed as the modernising leader of the 1980s. As followers desert him, Señor González

is another Richard Nixon in his final days as he blithely ignores the onslaught of judges and media, bent on fulfilling his "great vision". This, at the moment, boils down to a single obsession, Spain's turn to hold the European presidency, which starts in July. For Señor González, it will be an occasion for Iberian grandeur in which Spain, now recovering from recession, can turn the European Union spotlight south to the Mediterranean nations.

Officials preparing for the presidency say they could do without the turmoil which has, among other things, hammered the peseta and the stock market, but they urge perspective. Manuel Conthe, the

director of the Treasury, said the death squad affair is being overplayed. "We invented the Inquisition so maybe we have a tendency to shoot ourselves in the foot," he says.

As long as Jordi Pujol, the wily Catalan leader, refrains from pulling the rug from under the Socialists, Señor González can count on ignoring the demands for elections from José María Aznar, 40, the leader of the conservative opposition Popular Party (PP). Reaching for the all-important argument about Spain's image in foreign eyes, the PP says the country cannot afford upheavals during its presidency stint. "Spain is paying a high cost for keeping González in power,"

said Rafael Arias Salgado, policy adviser to Señor Aznar. "There are three criminal cases going on which affect the Government and the Prime Minister directly."

Memories of the last spasm of *franquismo* were revived yesterday as Spain noted the 24th anniversary of the attempted takeover of the Cortes by Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio Tejero of the Civil Guard.

The pro-opposition media seized the moment for comparisons with the present storm. In polemical mode, ABC, the conservative daily, said: "The sad events we are living through are worse and more damaging for democracy than February 23, 1981."

Fears of economic rifts temper the rush to cyberspace

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU IN BRUSSELS

THE Group of Seven yesterday ended its first conference on the information society amid heightened concern that the cyberspace age will widen the chasm between rich and poor, and between leading industrialised nations and the developing world.

The conference was the first major platform at which various blueprints of the information society were subjected to political debate. The heads of the world's leading technology companies, who exhibited their latest virtual reality cyber toys at the conference, urged further deregulation in telecommunications markets, emphasising the need for a free-market approach in the development of an information society. They received strong support from G7 ministers.

Enthusiasm for the new

world was tempered by a series of sceptical voices, notably from Thabo Mbeki, First Deputy President of South Africa, one of the few representatives from outside the G7, who was a guest of honour. Mr Mbeki said that in South Africa, only 2 per cent of blacks had telephones, compared to three-quarters of the white population. "The reality is that there are more telephone lines on Manhattan Island than in sub-Saharan Africa," he said. Mr Mbeki also reiterated widespread concerns about American cultural domination — a fear shared by France — when he said: "We don't just want to be watching MTV videos."

The need for a dialogue with the rest of the world was underlined in principle by the European Commission and the majority of G7 ministers,

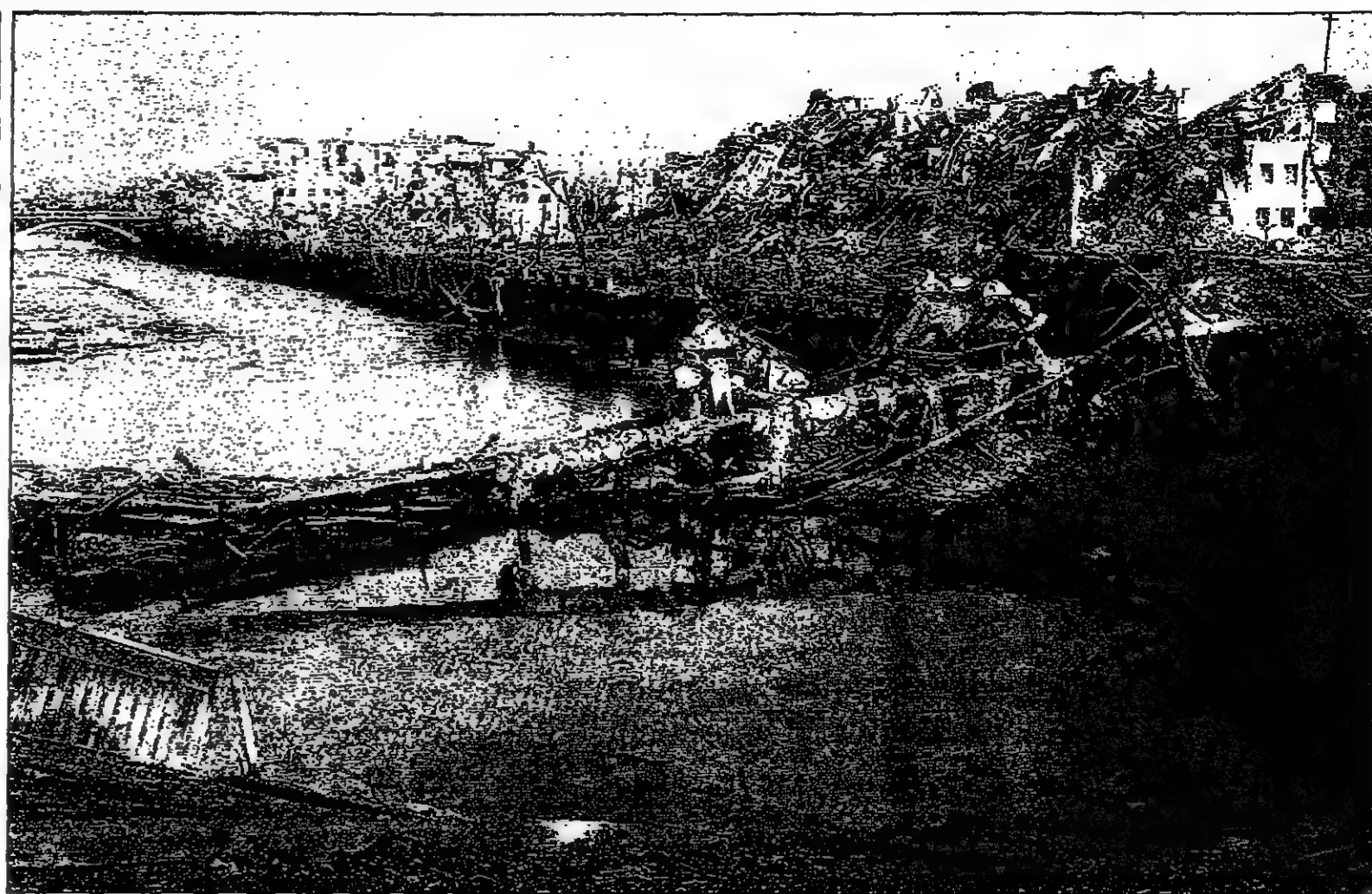
but the emphasis was on market deregulation and technological development. Martin Bangemann, the European Commissioner in charge of information technology, said: "We will not achieve the information society unless we give the free market a free rein. I am not convinced that division of the world into 'haves' and 'have-nots' will be the inevitable consequence of the information society."

His colleague, Padraig Flynn, the Social Affairs Commissioner, was markedly more cautious with his warning that "we must avoid the dangers of a dual society based on unequal access to information, skills and knowledge. We have to put technology on tap, not on top."

The meeting was overshadowed by a series of bilateral difficulties between the United States and Europe. Al Gore, the US Vice-President, announced the opening of the US telecommunications market to European competition, as long as Europe offered reciprocal access to America. But his "concession" was met with some scepticism by the Europeans, anxious that the new rules might establish as many new hurdles as ones they abolish.

Jacques Santer, the Commission President, and Mr Gore also failed to make progress in the long-running dispute between America and EU over the future chief of the World Trade Organisation. However, Mr Gore went out of his way to smooth over the Franco-American spy scandal, after last week's leak in *Le Monde* about industrial espionage by American agents in France.

He said: "There is no crisis in the US-France relationship," adding that it was a matter "best dealt with privately".



A central district of Grozny, the Chechen capital. Weeks of Russian bombardment and street fighting have reduced much of the city to rubble

Chechen civilians beg fighters to withdraw

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

CHECHEN fighters, who have lost control of all but the extreme southwestern section of Grozny, remained defiant yesterday, vowing to fight to the end. Not all Chechens share that view, however.

To the south of the city the Russians have driven a large wedge into Chechen territory, and have cut the main east-west road. On Saturday, a plume of black smoke 30 miles long stretched westwards from a burning oil refinery near Chernorechie, a suburb still in Chechen hands. If the Russians can push another eight miles further south, they will cut the last remaining road in Chechen hands.

The townsfolk of Gofit and other villages in Chechen hands have begged the fighters

to withdraw to spare their homes. Almost all such settlements suffer intermittent attacks. In the town of Shell on Saturday, a Russian air raid killed seven civilians, including two children, and wounded 15 others. No Chechen military position was hit.

Russian bomber pilots are now taking advantage of clear skies as spring approaches. But Chechen fighters, despite the military odds, remain determined to expel the Russian Army. "They began this war; we will end it. They are coming to their last days," said Beslan, 23, a fighter. "Allah will help us."

Chechen commanders at their base near Shell also said that they would fight on. Russian Alikhadjev, the commander of that sector, said that "all Chechens can see what Russian soldiers are doing in Grozny — murdering, looting and raping. Chechens know that they have to fight on."

He said the main hope was that Russian soldiers would refuse to fight. In fact, demoralised conscripts are being replaced by better motivated

professionals. Asked about the suffering of the civilian population if the war continues, the commander said that anything is better than surrender. "Anyway, it is senseless to lay down our arms now," he said. "The best men of our country are already dead. If we surrender now, what will we tell these men's children?"

In the market of Urus Marian, opinion was divided on whether to fight on, with a group of older men and women strongly against continuing. Razia, a middle-aged stallholder, asked: "How can we fight on? With what? Those madmen will fight on whatever we say, and then the Russians will destroy the rest of the country, just as they have done with Grozny."

Grozny short circuit kills 25 Russians

Moscow: A blast which killed at least 25 Russian servicemen on Saturday while a sapper unit on the southern outskirts of the capital, Grozny, was readying a device to explode mines by remote control. "As a result of an accidental

headquarters in Mozdok, it said the accident occurred on Saturday while a sapper unit on the southern outskirts of the capital, Grozny, was readying a device to explode mines by remote control. "As a result of an accidental

electrical short circuit, the device went off." The victims included 20 members of an Omon Interior Ministry unit, four regular ministry soldiers, and a member of the federal counter-intelligence service. (Reuters)



A conference visitor wears a virtual reality headset linked to a camera in another part of the European Parliament. The view was altered by head movements

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Mr. J. Dundas

"I SAVED £104"
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A mother and her son shelter in a sports hall in the French alpine ski resort of Chambéry. They were among thousands of holidaymakers forced to spend Saturday night in their cars or makeshift shelters after heavy snow blocked roads to many resorts. Gendarmes re-

Heavy snow traps skiers

opened the roads yesterday, and heavy traffic was reported, with extensive traffic jams. Twelve people were rescued on Saturday after an

avalanche in the Tarentaise valley buried them in their holiday homes. Rescue services said they had completed a search of a 26ft wall of snow and found no one else. At nearby Brides-les-Bains, four people were found safe in their car buried under snow. (AFP)

Bosnia imposes curbs on UN

FROM REUTER IN SARAJEVO

THE Muslim-led Government is taking a tougher stance towards the United Nations mission in Bosnia, restricting movements of peacekeepers in an attempt to assert its authority. UN officers said yesterday.

"They are certainly much bolder than they were before," said Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward. "They apparently wish to change their relationship with the UN."

Government troops have imposed restrictions on peacekeeping troops across the country, preventing UN patrols near front lines in the

northeast of the region. Bosnian Muslims blocked British peacekeepers at their base in central Bosnia yesterday for a third consecutive day, in an argument over the presence of Serb liaison officers, who arrived there last month under the current ceasefire accord. Bosnian troops were also blocking a road outside Visoko, where Canadian peacekeepers have been faced with increasing harassment from the Muslim soldiers.

Amid hostile coverage of the UN mission by the local media, a government representative has called for the

funding of the UN operation to be renegotiated. At present, the UN troops pay for the utilities they use in Bosnia, not for their accommodation. However, the Bosnian Government still relies on the UN to ferry in vital relief supplies, especially to Sarajevo, which has endured nearly three years of Serb siege.

In Washington, Administration officials said that President Clinton is considering temporarily sending thousands of American troops to protect UN peacekeeping forces if they have to withdraw from Croatia.

IG Metall cautions strike may last weeks

FROM JOHN HOLLAND IN BERLIN

THE leadership of IG Metall, Europe's largest industrial trade union, warned in Munich at the weekend that its current strike action could last for "weeks on end" if employers carried out their threats to lock out workers.

Werner Neugebauer, IG Metall's Munich chief, said the Gesamtmetall employers' association, representing 8,000 German businesses, was "playing with fire" by refusing to negotiate on union demands for a 6 per cent wage increase.

Meanwhile, union leaders at one of Germany's largest optical firms, the Bavarian-based Rodenstock, announced that they would order their 1,700 workers to strike from today.

After three days, the IG Metall strike has spread to 22 companies and is affecting more than 12,000 employees. Industry experts forecast that the Bavarian economy will suffer losses of over 100 million marks (£42 million) if the strike continues during the rest of the week.

The union is receiving only lukewarm support from the public for its demands, according to a survey taken at the weekend by a Mannheim research institute. According to the institute, 62 per cent of those questioned said that the union demands were too high. The majority of those questioned said that a 2.5 per cent wage increase to match the current inflation rate would be fair.

CHESHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY

GROUP RESULTS 1994

The Group results for 1994 are as follows:

	12 months to 31 Dec 1994 £'000s	12 months to 31 Dec 1993 £'000s
Net Interest Receivable	29,342	28,279
Other Income	5,920	6,605
Total Income	35,262	34,884
Administrative Expenses	13,312	12,887
Provisions for Loan Losses	3,519	3,914
Profit on Ordinary Activities	18,431	18,083
Tax on Profit on Ordinary Activities	6,164	6,000
Profit for the Year	12,267	12,083
Gross Capital	105,073	82,837
Total Assets (£m)	£1,419.8m	£1,367.2m

- Pre-tax profit up on last year's level
- Cost containment policies successful in restricting growth in Administrative Expenses to only 3.3%
- Reduction of 10% in "Provisions for Loan Losses"
- Successful PIBS issue of £10m in first quarter
- Capital base growth of £22.24m in the year, an increase of 27%

Paul Hughes, Chief Executive commented:

"We have increased our profitability in a very competitive and fragile mortgage market and maintained tight control of costs."

"Our PIBS issue of £10m in the first quarter has helped to make the Cheshire a highly capitalised society."

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■ FILM

The glamorous world of high fashion seen through the analytical eyes of director Robert Altman in his latest, *Prêt-à-Porter*

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ BOOKS

Hilary Mantel explores a young girl's pain in her dazzling new 'coming of age' novel, *An Experiment in Love*

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday



■ POP

Fresh from his triumph at the Brit Awards, Prince launches his huge British tour with a series of Wembley Arena dates

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



■ OPERA

Benjamin Britten's austere powerful chamber work, *The Rape of Lucretia*, is staged at the Guildhall

OPENS: Saturday
REVIEW: Next Tuesday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Preoccupation with occupation

As Coward's *Peace In Our Time* goes on tour, Ellen Cranitch considers how 'what if?' scenarios help us to understand history

According to an index published by the Allied authorities in Germany shortly after the Second World War, in the event of a Nazi victory a number of prominent British artists would immediately have been executed. The list included J. B. Priestley, Alexander Korda, Rebecca West and Noel Coward.

Since the list included statesmen such as Churchill, Coward felt a certain satisfaction in being cited. Rebecca West could not resist writing to Coward as soon as the details were known: "Just think of the people we'd have been seen dead with!" Though Coward had his detractors at home, the Nazis, conscious of his hugely successful naval propaganda film, *In Which We Serve*, had no doubts about his artistic pre-eminence.

Many books, films and plays have dealt with the hypothesis of a German victory and occupation of England — Saki's novel *When William Came*, Kevin Brownlow and Andrew Mollo's celebrated film *It Happened Here*, Len Deighton's *SS-GB* and most recently Robert Harris's bestselling novel *Fatherland*, now a film. Coward's play *Peace In Our Time* is one of the least known, probably because, with a cast of 30, it has not been professionally performed since its debut at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, in 1947. The Touring Partnership now brings it back in a new production which opens tomorrow in Woking.

What is the purpose of art that postulates a different version of history and why does it provoke controversy? Sometimes it is because the role of the artist is confused with that of the historian. Orthodox historians are suspicious of the question, "what if?" they regard speculative narratives as problematic since the evidence for what might have happened is taken from a world in which one particular course of events did occur.

Artists, however, recognise no such constraints, arguing that fictional works inspired by a core of fact should be judged solely according to how good they are as drama, literature or film. Yet the reaction to *Peace In Our Time* and *Fatherland* suggests artists are not, in fact, as free as one might suppose. Fiction that flirts so shamelessly with fact can touch raw nerves and spark accusations of insensitivity.

Peace In Our Time is set in a

Chelsea pub between 1940 and 1945. It follows the lives of ordinary people under Nazi occupation as they demonstrate that British mix of obstinacy, independence, humour and bloody-mindedness which Coward defined as "London pride". It was inspired by the poisonous atmosphere of suspicion and denunciation in postwar Paris. Returning there after the war, Coward found that his flat had been occupied by Gestapo officers and his maid had had her head shaved for collaboration. While some of his friends had suffered, others had co-operated with the Nazis. Coward wondered how his English friends might have

What is the purpose of art that postulates a different version of history?

behaved in the same situation.

The *Daily Telegraph* praised the play for shocking the audience out of a general postwar mood of weary escapism, saying, "We need to be reminded, just now, that we are a people of spirit." Most reviewers, however, reacted coolly, criticising the play for being out of tune with the times.

There were other reasons people were uneasy with Coward's grimly humorous evocation of an occupied England. The Lord Chamberlain's reader commented that "the fiction inevitably seems pretty poor drama beside the facts of recent history and in my opinion it is a theme which the wise dramatist would avoid".

His comments prefigure objections to Robert Harris's 1992 *Fatherland*, that some facts are of such tragic significance that to add any fictional gloss is to diminish them. *Fatherland*, essentially a police thriller, is very different from *Peace In Our Time*. Set in an imaginary 1964, it cannot be accused of being too close to the events it uses as a fictional launch pad. In it Hitler is 75 years old, supreme controller of the Greater German Reich, a totalitarian state stretching from the Rhine to the Urals. The novel is meticulously researched and packed with

authentic details of buildings and political schemes which were actually drawn up by Hitler and his accomplices confident of eventual victory. However, the central idea — that knowledge of the murder of six million Jews could have been completely suppressed — proved controversial.

In Germany the book caused a furor. *Der Spiegel* attacked it for trivialising a highly sensitive issue. In Britain, one reviewer expressed unease with "the juxtaposition of the awful fact of the concentration camps with a clutch of thriller clichés". A similar sentiment occurs in some of the 1947 reviews of *Peace In Our Time* — the sense that Coward's witty banter is an inadequate vehicle for dramatising the devastating effects of Nazi rule.

Harris defends the premise of his book. "The Holocaust was so unbelievable that the Nazis thought nobody would believe it. I think that it's by pointing out how easily it could have been forgotten that you do remember. It's vital the Holocaust isn't confined to dry academia — that is the route to oblivion."

Fiction such as Coward's and Harris's, if well executed and sensitively handled, can be highly charged and provocative. By creating a vivid imaginary history, it encourages us to engage with actual history on a more imaginative level, all the more welcome now as 1995 threatens to buckle beneath the weight of official war commemorations. Both works are a chilling reminder of how close Hitler came to invading England.

John Mortimer's reaction to *Fatherland* could equally well have been a response to *Peace In Our Time*. "I had, perhaps, been waiting for an answer to the question that must haunt all those of an age to have been put to the test: how badly might we have behaved if history had gone as he (Harris) imagines it? Perhaps what divides us from Europe is not the Channel or our innate xenophobia but the fact that we never had to live under a Nazi occupation. We never had to choose between doomed resistance and silent, cowardly collaboration."

Peace In Our Time is at the New Victoria Theatre, Woking (01483 761144) from tomorrow until Saturday, and then tours to Richmond, Cardiff, Norwich, Bath and Newcastle. *It Happened Here* is available from Connoisseur Video (01745 85757). *Fatherland* has just been released on video.



Let's not be beastly to the English: from Kevin Brownlow and Andrew Mollo's film *It Happened Here* (1963)

OVERTURES

Daldry tackles Beckett

NEVER one to be cautious, the director Stephen Daldry is treading fearlessly where his colleague Deborah Warner stumbled last year — into the arms of the Beckett estate who quickly sent packing Warner's idiosyncratic staging of *Footfalls* with Fiona Shaw. Daldry has secured permission from the estate to direct the stage premiere in June at the Royal Court of Beckett's 1957 radio play, *All That Fall*, although it is unlikely that Daldry's typically iconoclastic original notion of blinding the audience will actually be adopted.

● VIRGIN Classics is rushing to release Davitt Moroney's recording of five previously unknown pieces by Henry Purcell. They are part of a recently discovered manuscript of autograph keyboard music by England's greatest baroque composer. The Virgin Classics release will correspond with an announcement at the British Library tomorrow about the future of the manuscript, found by a Devon music dealer in 1993.

● THE director Jonathan Kent will hardly be resting on his laurels once he opens his *Hamlet* with Ralph Fiennes tomorrow night. Beyond transferring that staging to Broadway on April 14, the director has two further productions on offer for the Almeida in the autumn: *Tartuffe*, with Ian McKellen in the title role, and a new play, *Gangster No. 1*, by David Seixo and Louis Meltis, starring Peter Bowles as an East End gangster. And then there is the Diana Rigg *Mother Courage* at the National. When does the man rest?

● FIGURES newly released by the British Phonographic Institute show that, contrary to popular belief, album sales are booming here. End-of-year successes by the Beautiful South, Bon Jovi and the Beatles helped to push the 1994 total to 176.9 million units, up 15 per cent on 1993. The market value of this figure is put at a record £819.6 million. CD sales accounted for the bulk of the increase: up 25 per cent year on year. The singles market, meanwhile, climbed to 63 million.

THEATRE: Jeremy Kingston on the West End transfer of Miller's latest

More thought than feeling

AFTER its sell-out run at the National Theatre, Arthur Miller's stirring play transfers to the West End for a ten-week season. A deeply felt work, it nevertheless stirs thoughts more insistently than it provokes feelings, even though David Thacker's precisely measured direction generates acting as powerful as any currently on offer in all London.

The play is set at the end of November 1958, in the days after *Kristallnacht* when the Nazis organised attacks on Jewish property throughout Germany, and glass from the smashed windows of shops and synagogues littered the streets. Four of the six characters are Jews but they are Americans, safely living in Brooklyn, and yet the cool, dreamlike set designed by Shelagh Keegan tells us how fragile that safety may be. The triangular stage tapers sharply towards the back, where a cellist plays mournfully between scenes, and the walls are sheets of glass. Inside Sylvia Gelburg's mind the windows are already as good as broken.

The play begins with her husband's visit to Dr Hyman.



Powerful duo: Henry Goodman and Margot Leicester

Broken Glass Duke of York's

hoping to learn why Sylvia has suddenly lost the use of her legs. Tests reveal no physical cause, and to him her condition is inexplicable. Not so to us. Henry Goodman's entire demeanour as Philip — prickly, impatient, tightly controlled and dressed in sepulchral black — signals serious failure in the couple's marital

relations. As if that were not enough, she obsessively reads newspaper accounts of the anti-Jewish atrocities in Germany. Because we in the audience connect these clues in micro-seconds, the first half of the play moves surprisingly slowly. The acting of the three principals is outstandingly good. Margot Leicester's Sylvia rakes the doctor with her huge, limpid eyes, mutely clamouring for the touch of love; Goodman seethes with bafflement and self-hatred;

Ken Stott's rumpled, chain-smoking Hyman is a wonderfully realised creation on Miller's part.

Yet Miller's emphatic placing of the clues, however explained by Sylvia's urgent need to blast through the complacency that surrounds her, imparts a preachy tone to this act. It also uses obvious contrasts, especially between the relaxed, tolerant Hyman and Philip, continually venting anti-Semitic sneers.

This is the revelation of the second act, though once again it is plainly signalled. Philip loathes being a Jew in a gay society while frantically ambitious to succeed precisely as a Jew in that society. The resulting tensions have consumed his marriage, terrified his wife and finally destroyed him.

Miller has telling observations to make about what it is to be a Jew — Goodman's ingratiating posture before his non-Jewish boss is horrifying to watch — and we are clearly invited to compare American Jewry's silence in the face of Nazism to the West's response to faraway massacres today. And yet while much is keen and suggestive, the play is not as good as it thinks it is.

THREE decades and a world war separate the composition of Elgar's Symphony No 1 and Berg's Violin Concerto. Stylistically a gulf divides them: the Elgar a late flowering of lush, post-Wagnerian Romanticism; the Berg — for all its deep humanity — based on a Schoenbergian note row. And yet, when they are heard side by side, at least as conducted by Zubin Mehta, one becomes aware of common elements.

What Mehta's performances with the London Philharmonic on Thursday night highlighted was the spirit of introspection. The Berg, with Pinchas Zukerman a subdued soloist, emerged not as a concerto in the traditional sense of a display piece, but as

LONDON CONCERTS

Contrasts strike a common chord

LPO/Mehta
Festival Hall

a melancholy reflection on the harshness of life.

In the case of the Elgar symphony, Mehta's introspective approach was immediately evident from an extraordinarily measured

"nobilmente" introduction. Hardly the marked Andante, this funeral march set the tone for a very deliberately paced first movement.

The unhurried tempo had two notable results. In climactic passages, the full orchestra seemed more full-blooded than usual. In meditative vein, however, the world-weariness was palpable. Detail was gen-

erally clear, but at this tempo some characteristic Elgarian touches — coruscating woodwind flashes or quicksilver harp flourishes — are sacrificed.

The Scherzo second movement brought some fleet playing from the orchestra, whose principals took their brief solos throughout admirably. So intensely inward was the Andante that one resented the break before the finale — the composer's built-in lowering of tension. But Mehta's last movement delivered the goods, bringing a fresh and deeply felt interpretation to a sonorous conclusion.

BARRY
MILLINGTON

Mind triumphs over musical matter

LSO/Davis
Barbican

EVERY effort was made to provide congenial company for Sir Michael Tippett's Fourth Symphony. It was preceded by Midori's performance of Stravinsky's Violin Concerto — both works look over their shoulders to pre-classical models — and by Sibelius's Seventh Symphony, its notional archetype as a single-movement symphonic fantasia.

Yet still its presence could be awkward. Compared with so much of what we have heard already in these Visions of Paradise, the Fourth Sympho-

beauty of scoring: pools of shimmering reflection for wind, solo viola and harp, or oboe, high violin and piano.

But the integration of the programmatic element in the work (the inspiration of patterns of cellular growth, and a "birth-to-death" idea) is uneasy, more a cerebral notion than a musical necessity.

Sibelius's own *Fantasia sinfonica*, the Symphony No 7, was the real focal point of the evening. Here, within a single movement, is one of the great pinnacles of 20th-century symphonic writing, its

imaginative fantasy never compromised by its compression, its symphonic thinking fashioned out of a seemingly endless capacity for self-transformation.

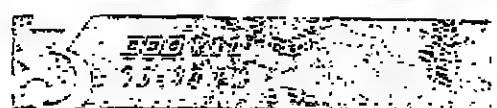
Sir Colin's reading of the work has grown in stature since his 1992 Sibelius cycle. Now there is a more urgent yet still more freely breathing relationship between tempos, timbres, stages of metamorphosis — and the LSO played as if there was nothing they loved better in the world.

HILARY FINCH

ISLE LISTEN TO PURCELL

Fairest Isle

PURCELL'S 'THE PROPHETESS' TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH. 7:00PM-10:45PM.



Europe in confusion over genetic engineering □ Solving the oldest problem in the universe □ How wildlife perished in the ancient world

Can anyone patent life?

THIS week, more than six years after the European Commission first thought of it, a directive on the patenting of human, animal and plant life finally comes to a vote in the European Parliament. Although designed to clarify and harmonise the law in member states, the directive is unlikely to do any such thing.

For a start, it may get thrown out, as a coalition of green groups is urging. Even if it is passed, three member states — Germany, Austria and Italy — have indicated that they disagree with a key section. And last week, a ruling from the appeals board of the European Patent Office (not an EU body) appeared to conflict with another section of the directive.

Confused? You are not alone. The EPO decision was greeted as a victory by both Greenpeace, who had challenged the granting of a patent to plants containing a gene that confers pesticide resistance, and the companies granted the patent. And nobody is very happy with the directive, which Dr Nick

Scott-Ram, of British Biotechnology, calls "a fudged compromise" and Anna Brindley, of Greenpeace, "a mess".

As it stands, the directive will allow patents on human genes, proteins, and cell-lines, while transgenic animals will also be patentable. Patents on entire genetically-engineered crops will be allowed, in spite of the EPO ruling last week limiting protection to the altered plant cells.

The issue raises strong views, with opponents arguing that it is morally wrong to "own" a stretch



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

of human DNA, and the industry arguing that without such ownership to guarantee a return on investment, a lot of worthwhile research will never be done. So far, most of the decisions have been going the way of the industry.

The EPO, for example, threw out an attempt by MEPs to disallow a patent covering the gene for H2-relaxin, the protein that relaxes a woman's pelvic girdle to widen during pregnancy and childbirth. The patent was granted in April 1991 to the Howard Florey Institute of

Experimental Physiology and Medicine, in Melbourne.

The appeal board in this case dismissed all the arguments, moral and practical, against the patent. "DNA is not life," it declared. "Even if every gene in the human body were cloned, it would be impossible to reconstitute a human being."

Last week's ruling on the genetically-engineered plants seemed to offer the objectors something, by narrowing the scope of the patent to the cells, not the entire plant. But Plant Genetic Systems, one of the patentees, was unconcerned.

"We're very happy with the decision" said a spokesman for the company, based in Belgium. "This patent offers the same level of protection as before." The only effect of the ruling, he believed, would be to influence the way the patent claims are drafted in future, not their effect.

The next key decision will be the EPO board's verdict on the "oncomouse" — a transgenic mouse bred to die young from cancer. The patent, granted in May 1992, has been challenged by animal welfare groups and will be heard later this year.

Light work



THE distant flicker of a quasar may have got astronomers out of a bind. Last year data from the Hubble Space Telescope was used to calculate the age of the universe, and it turned out to be much less than the age of the stars within it: a curious conundrum.

Now a new method of measuring the rate at which the universe expands — and thus the time that has passed since it began in the Big Bang — has produced an answer much closer to the age of the stars. Astronomers at Tarnu Observatory, in Estonia, and Hamburg Observatory, in Germany, have studied a double image of a quasar caused by a galaxy lying between us and it.

The effect of the galaxy is to bend the flickering light from the quasar (known as QSO 0957-561) so that it reaches us along two separate paths. The astronomers identified a flicker along one path, and waited for it to arrive along

the other. Then they used the time delay and the speed of light to calculate the difference in path lengths. They knew the relative distance between Earth and quasar and Earth and galaxy: with this and the path difference, they could find the distance to the quasar.

They could then work out the Hubble Constant, a measure of how fast the universe is expanding. According to a report in *New Scientist*, they calculate that it must be less than 70 — consistent with an age for the universe of about 12 billion years. The oldest stars could also be around that age, resolving the conundrum.

Lost species



MANY species have a hard time surviving in the modern world, but prehistory was even worse. We already know that during the colonisation of North America by early man huge animals such as the mammoth died off; now it

seems that destruction on a similar scale also happened in the South Pacific.

When humans set foot on the unspoiled islands of Polynesia and Micronesia 4,000 years ago, there were hundreds of species of birds now known only by their fossils. Writing in *Science*, Dr David Steadman, of New York State Museum, says that as many as 1,600 bird species disappeared within a few hundred years of the settlers' arrival in their canoes.

Not only man was responsible: pigs, dogs and rats who accompanied him also did their bit to kill off the birds, many of which were flightless rails. "By the time Captain Cook sailed the Pacific, most of the bird species that had been there were a thing of the past," Dr Steadman says.

That the extinctions were not natural is shown by the Galapagos, an archipelago uninhabited before 1598. In the previous 4,000 years only three species had become extinct there; since then, 21 to 24 have disappeared.

Over the whole of man's involvement with the Pacific some 2,000 species of bird have gone. The dodo was not alone.

SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY

Building the new world, one atom at a time

Has nanotechnology discovered the secret of creation?

Jon Turney explains the theories of K. Eric Drexler

Take two technologists: a Stone Age axe-maker chipping flakes off a flint and today's high-tech worker drawing circuits on a silicon wafer with an electron beam. In one way, they are doing the same thing. Engineering has always been about fashioning materials, and it is done by removing the stuff you don't want in the finished workpiece. You can replicate that work by casting or moulding, but there is no getting around the need to sculpt the master shape. Now, that may all be about to change.

The prophet of this change is K. Eric Drexler, a 39-year-old graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who has a different recipe for making things. Grow them. In his vision, the crude mechanical artefacts of the past, and all the hacking and filing which go into them, will be superseded by devices which are built atom by atom. Every atom will be put in its place by a molecular manipulator which is itself built the same way. No inaccuracy, no waste. No human labour. Just a new realm of infinite possibility opened



Drexler: a prophet of scientific revolution

up by a new approach to technology: by nanotechnology.

That vision was first described at length in Drexler's popular book *Engines of Creation*, published in 1986. It is also the core of a new book, *Nanot*, by the American science writer Ed Regis. He describes how the youthful Drexler, like any red-blooded American progressi-

st, was deeply upset by the idea of limits to growth in the late 1960s. Looking for a way of escape from those limits, he at first became obsessed with space colonisation. But soon after entering MIT, he discovered molecular biology. Inside every living cell, he found, there were all these tiny machines. Working together, they could build copies of themselves. If we could build such a technology, he reasoned, we could make anything we liked, by rearranging individual atoms.

He quickly came to the conclusion that developing an ability to work at this level was inevitable. The consequences were mind-boggling. Step by step, using what he claimed were reasonable engineering assumptions, Drexler built a new world. So far, it exists only on paper, mainly in his technical treatise *Nanoposters*, but he firmly believes that it is a genuine prospect.

In such a world, each of us would have an unlimited number of invisible attendants, building our homes, making our food to order, perhaps even repairing our ageing cells from the inside. For Drexler, the ability to control atoms foreshadows the greatest technological revolution in history.

Regis, a droll writer, has fun chronicling some of the more sober scientific reactions to Drexler's science-fictional vision. But he is basically on the nanovisionaries' side. It becomes clear from the book, though, that the gap between what can be done now — writing the letters IBM in 35 individual atoms of xenon, for example — is very far from the working devices the new world will be based on.

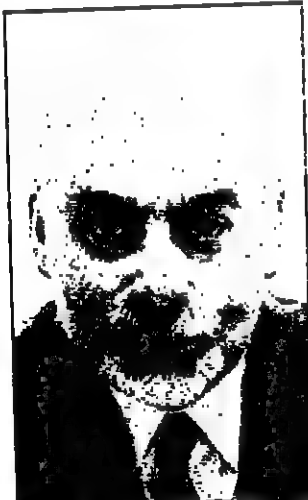
Certainly, the pages of the *Institute of Physics Journal Nanotechnology* indicate that the goals of real-world nanotechnologists are altogether more modest than, for instance, milk and honey synthesised to order by machines.

Nevertheless, nanotechnology is now a recognised research field. In Britain, the former Science and Engineering Research Council took a close look at its possibilities in 1989, and the following year set up a small six-year programme, which will fund about £1 million worth of research in its final year.

Some of the projects are trying to extend the capabilities of conventional engineering. At Cranfield University, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council supports efforts to construct a nanocentre within Professor Pat McKeown's Centre for Ultra-Precision Engineering. This is a tiny set of devices for turning and grinding workpieces down to nanometre tolerances.

A nanometre — one billionth of a metre — is getting close to atomic dimensions. An average atom is about one tenth of a nanometre in diameter. The molecular complex which guides protein synthesis in the living cell, the ribosome, is about 25 nanometres across — a belated nanometre.

Others who can contemplate working at this scale include Colin Humphreys, Professor of Materials Science



Fraser Stoddart: creating molecular building bricks

at Cambridge, who uses high-energy electron beams for removing single atoms from surfaces. This way, you really could write the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* on the head of a pin, if there were any point in doing so. And at the Rutherford-Appleton Laboratory, researchers in the Central Microstructure Facility, are using finely-tuned lasers to sculpt materials in equally minute detail.

But all this, in Drexler's scheme of things, is still no more than flaking finer chips off the flint. What about the



The letters IBM created in individual atoms of xenon

bottom-up, atom by atom approach which is the real key to his unbounded future? There are signs of progress here, too. Fraser Stoddart, Professor of Organic Chemistry at Birmingham University, specialises in building molecules with complex three-dimensional shapes, a study he has described as molecular building bricks.

In addition, the much-publicised new form of carbon, Buckminsterfullerene, has excited chemists with the possibilities of caging atoms in its beautifully symmetrical array of 60 atoms, as well as making "nanotubes" of carbon, for example.

Any revolutionary idea is seen by some as a redescription of what they already do, and this time the chemists seem to have the strongest case. The Nobel Laureate Roald Hoffman, of Cornell University, says: "Chemists

have been practising nanotechnology, structure and reactivity and properties, for two centuries, and for 50 years by design." He welcomes what he regards as the marriage of chemical synthetic talent with engineering ingenuity which he sees in some nanotechnology. Others are less convinced. Professor Stoddart feels that Drexler does not know enough chemistry to establish whether his ideas about molecule-sized gears, bearings and motors could ever be built.

Other British researchers are also wary of the prophet Drexler. The man evokes mixed feelings, according to the co-ordinator of the nanotechnology initiative, Dennis Robinson, the visiting Professor in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Nottingham. "I doubt if he

would be put up for election to the Royal Society on the basis of his work so far," Professor Robinson says drily.

Drexler will be able to live with this. He has a standard reply to critics. The key is to distinguish between what is near-term and what is long-term; and between what is real and what is unreal. Then, one must take care not to confuse long-term with unreal. There are two reactions to this. One is to conclude that the current state of the art makes some of Drexler's notions look very long-term indeed. The other is the plea recently posted to the Internet: "Where can I invest in this nanotechnology?" the query ran. "I neglected to invest in Xerox, Apple, Intel or Microsoft at the proper moment. I'd hate to miss the boat on this one." The replies suggested that the would-be investor should hang onto his money for the true being. Nevertheless, that is the spirit which may make some of Drexler's seemingly wilder predictions come about sooner than we think.

● *Nanot* — Remaking the world atom by atom. By Ed Regis. Is published by Bantam Press on March 9 (£16.99).

● Jon Turney is Wellcome Fellow in Science Communication, University College London.

Scare stories about plunging temperatures in the Scottish Highlands can be misleading, says William Burroughs

We should keep cool heads about frostbite

Each winter, reports of the rescue of climbers and skiers in the Scottish Highlands focus on the extreme temperatures experienced by those trapped in the snow. What are usually quoted are the wind-chill figures, which combine temperature and wind speed to produce dramatically low values. These figures can be misleading.

Wind chill relates to the rate of heat loss from exposed flesh. The original experiments to study this phenomenon were carried out in Antarctica in the early 1940s by measuring heat loss from plastic cylinders full of warm water as a function of wind speed. These experiments were designed in particular to estimate the risks of frostbite.

Together with subsequent studies, this work established

how much heat is lost by exposed skin, as a function of both temperature and wind speed. To make these figures easier to understand, they are translated into equivalent temperatures for losses when walking in still air conditions.

Because these figures can be so striking they have become widely used. The combination of a temperature of minus 4°C and a wind of 25mph equates to a wind-chill temperature of minus 23°C, while minus 8°C and a wind of 50mph combines to give minus 34°C. It is only when the equivalent temperature falls well below minus 30°C that there is a real risk of frostbite, while figures below about minus 50°C mean that flesh can freeze within a minute.

What can be overlooked is that modern fabrics are more



Braving the cold: polar explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes

than capable of providing a combination of water and windproofing, insulation and breathability to meet the challenges of wind and cold. So with the right clothing, the only parts of the body experiencing the lower temperatures

So figures as low as minus 35°C quoted for conditions in the Cairngorms should be taken with a pinch of salt. The lowest temperature ever recorded in Scotland is minus 27.2°C, at Braemar in February 1895 and January 1982, while on the highest peaks it rarely falls below minus 15°C. But the frequent high winds do mean that anyone without adequate clothing, or failing to find shelter in severe weather, will experience dangerously rapid chilling.

Wind-chill figures become particularly misleading when air temperatures are above freezing. While the combination of 4°C and a wind speed of 25mph will cool exposed flesh at the same rate as still air at minus 11°C, there is no question of anything freezing. Indeed, climbers and skiers crossing deep snow

need to be on their guard in such conditions. It may feel bitterly cold, but this disguises the fact that the snow will be thawing and on steep slopes this may greatly increase the avalanche risk.

In North America, where cold waves of Arctic air can bring sudden and dramatic changes in winter weather, the wind-chill factor has been used to good effect to warn the public of the dangerous conditions. In lowland Britain it is of limited relevance, but in windy upland areas it is a useful guide to anyone venturing out.

So for most of us, wind-chill is nothing more than a reminder to wrap up well when venturing abroad on cold windy days. As a measure of extremes of temperature it has little meaning.

Expand or die? That's the dilemma facing further education colleges today.

This Friday The Times Educational Supplement examines the pressures on colleges in a 16-page Further Education Update.

We look at recruitment, qualifications, libraries, mergers and access to higher education.

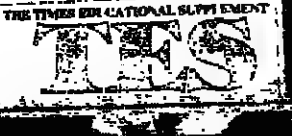
The TES.

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FURTHER EDUCATION

UPDATE

YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE IT.



011 20 1550

Julia Llewellyn Smith considers the career of the seductive Mr Malik

But is it really Art?

Art Malik, the actor who seduced the nation with his part as the tragic innocent Hari Kumar in *The Jewel in the Crown*, is cropping up everywhere. At one end of the scale he is busy promoting the video of *True Lies*, the Arnold Schwarzenegger blockbuster. At the other, he is starring in Tom Stoppard's latest play *Indian Ink*, which opens tonight at the Aldwych Theatre.

Few actors can see-saw so neatly from Hollywood to the West End. But things have not always been so simple for Malik, 42. At the beginning of the decade he was collecting social security, his house in Kingston, Surrey, was on the market and the only script that came his way had the title *Patel and Smith*.

Two summers ago, he returned home from a meeting with his tax inspector, who told him he had a week to pay his debts before the Official Receiver would be called in. Before he could break this to his wife, however, she told him to call his agent immediately. Los Angeles had been calling, they wanted him for the villain in *True Lies* — then the most expensive film ever made.

"At some point everyone gets a little bit of magic in their lives," says Malik. "That was mine."

We are talking in Malik's dressing-room at the Aldwych, half an hour before curtain up. People knock at the door constantly, organising props and costumes, checking if he needed a haircut.

He doesn't — his neat crop enhances his boyish charm, undimmed since those halcyon *Jewel* days. What he does need is a touch of coverstick, to hide the bags beneath his huge spaniel eyes. It is the end of a gruelling week of previews. Malik has spent every night on stage perfecting his performance as Nirad Das, an Indian artist whose cultural attitudes are transformed after an encounter with a flamboyant Englishwoman (Felicity Kendal).

The days, meanwhile, have been filled learning rewrites and endlessly rehearsing. Malik has not appeared on stage for ten years. "I didn't quite remember the amount of physical discipline that you need in the theatre," he says, brows furrowing intently. "It needs a change in concentration. In films one is so used to the idea of saying cut."

Not that Malik is complaining about sharing top billing with Kendal and Margaret Tyzack and being directed by Peter Wood. This is a theatrical event. It is not, he explains, as if he would do just any theatre.

"Something has to really excite me to make me say no to a successful film career. And, on the whole, English theatre is trapped. All that anyone wants from us is costume drama. No one wants to address life in the 1990s."

It is for this reason that Malik proclaims he is not interested in the classics. If the National offered him the part of Romeo, he would, he says, reject it.

Which is odd, given that Malik did not reject being the baddie in one of the more duff Bond films, *The Living Day-*



Art Malik: once he complained that he was only ever asked to play head-nodding Asians, with Peter Sellers accents

lights or, indeed, a part in *True Lies*, which, although vastly enjoyable and certainly very 1990s, are hardly treasures of the avant-garde. I know, he has already offered the excuse of imminent bankruptcy, but he does seem to be using an odd criterion for choosing his roles.

Or maybe casting directors are guilty of using too narrow a criterion when they come to choosing Malik. This is a man who went to school in south London and speaks in educated, distinctly Actorly tones, yet whose CV reeks of the subcontinent: *The Far Pavilions*, *Harem*, *Shadow of the Cobra*, *Passage to India*. Doesn't he feel limited by the colour of his skin? Apparently not. Once Malik complained that he was only ever asked to play head-nodding Asians, with Peter Sellers accents.

Now, however, he appears content with his lot. "Hari Kumar was a gift of a part to

launch my career and I wouldn't have got that if I hadn't been Asian. And in my career, I've played nice people and bad people, men who are unfaithful and philanderers — all the parts that any actor could be expected to play. The same question does not arise with Robert De Niro always playing an American Italian. We accept that any one of his characters is different."

Despite being born in Pakistan, Malik feels 100 per cent British. He came here at the age of three, when his father, an eye surgeon, got a job at Moorfields Eye Hospital. Little Art (short for Athar) went to the local primary school until he was 11, when his father decided a bit of "reverse colonialism" was in order and dispatched him and his brothers to boarding school in Pakistan. "It was in the Afghan foothills and it

might as well have been in Shropshire."

The school closed down and Malik returned to Blighty and the local grammar school, technology and then business college, which he abandoned for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

There he met his wife, Gina Rowe, with whom he has two daughters: Jessica, 14, and Keira, 12. Many of Malik's financial difficulties have sprung from trying to keep them with him on his global search for work.

Malik denies that his troubles are over — the *True Lies* fee went on paying off his debts. Still, he considers himself "pretty fortunate". "Yeah, I sleep pretty well," he says. "And if I can encourage an Asian whose father runs a corner shop to become an actor or go into the media, rather than become an engineer or doctor, I would be very pleased."

Until our great financial institutions seem safe again...

Damn Barings! Overnight, they have brought a relapse of my old trouble, reducing me to a condition which unites me for the modern world as surely as the "techno-fear" of those who hate computers. The condition is probably known as fisco-phobia: an inability to trust bankers. Since the modern financial world is a seamless web of interlocking barter, I can now hardly bring myself to bank a cheque. All I get, doctor, is this terrible sense that however respectable the facade, behind it lies a long unbroken line leading to some maniac in Singapore, overexposed in derivatives and hurting money around in some unregulated personal frenzy. Is anywhere safe?

Barings were not Barings, after all; they do not live in the bravura world of showbiz where fortune spins the wheel and nobody is too surprised when the star runs off on the Ramsgate ferry. They were never Artful Dodgers like BCCI. They are old-established chaps in three-piece gents' worsted; if one had any money, we laymen say to one another as we inattentively spread the City pages out in the car-tray, one would definitely let them have it. The Queen does. Bound to have all sorts of

Keep it under the mattress



LIBBY PURVES

safeguards, aren't they? Then suddenly you wake up and find that a man in their Singapore office has single-handedly managed to lose the bank's entire reserves of £600 million. You retrieve the financial pages from under the car and scan them hopelessly for clues as to how such a thing could possibly happen. And the ground dissolves, to reveal a writhing financial snake-pit.

We prudent timid amateurs absolutely hate these glimpses of the subterranean casino that rules our lives and holds our hope of security. Lloyd's was different: conscious gamblers. What really gets you by the throat is the realisation that there is virtually nowhere left to squirrel away any money where it cannot be scorched by the flames of that hellfire underworld. You could keep it all in building societies like

Jimmy Savile, but even they are now going on about their super new "freedoms" and "opportunities to become bigger players".

As it happened, I spent Saturday evening immersed in this newspaper's pullout guide to Peps, and had almost persuaded myself to provide for my old age by way of the National Reliable Equitable & Prudent & Not At All Dodgy Trust. No chance now: gripped by fresh fisco-phobia, I will not join the dance. You could no doubt offer me a hundred reasons why my money would be safe, and even grow faster than it got diminished by the exorbitant charges the National Reliable saw fit to levy. But I still hesitate: there were a hundred reasons why Barings was safe.

Regulators? Hmm. Ask the Maxwell pensioners, prudent non-gamblers, about regulators. Some of their

companies had only been brought into the empire in the six months before they lost not only what they had paid Maxwell, but what they had paid to other employers way back to their first day in their first job. Some of them have died in stress and uncertainty during the three years before the present patch-up; some in mid-career are still not sure where they stand.

Maxwell was a one-off; but what really appals the fisco-phobic layman is the fact that the City never blew the whistle as money flooded erratically in and out of a dozen banks a day in a manner incomprehensible to any normal person. Nor was there a squeak out of the Government's pensions regulator Inaro. A lot of suits, charged with protecting the money of the innocent, proved as much use as a cardboard bucket.

Maybe it is not so bad. Maybe, as more trusting friends assure me, the big crashes can't touch the cautious because there is a layer of grouchiness, hard-headed Scottish pension fund managers standing between us and destruction. Maybe, after all, the financial establishment is still marginally safer than the spare-room mattress. Maybe. Give me time.

The fast track to literary success

Edward Marriot meets a commuter who decided to put his travelling time to productive use

Every day is the same. At 5.30pm, Chris Paling leaves Broadcasting House in central London. By 6pm, he is at Victoria station. By six minutes past, when the Brighton train pulls out, Paling, a producer for BBC Radio 4's *The Afternoon Shift*, has unfolded his laptop and begun to write. An hour later, when the train reaches Brighton, Paling will have completed 400 words.

Paling, 38, has worked for the BBC since 1980, and five days a week he submits himself to this discipline. While fellow commuters drink, play cards and snooze, Paling writes. It seems to have done the trick: next week Jonathan Cape publishes his first novel, *After the Raid*, a mystery story set in wartime London.

The book bears all the hallmarks of being written on a train. The two main characters, a man and a nurse, meet on board. The train stops at an unknown village, they alight and look around. Only one of them re-embarks. And so the mystery begins.

It has, too, a locomotive rhythm. Much of it is written in short scenes and staccato sentences. Paling will start one scene leaving Victoria and end it as the train pulls into Brighton. There is even a tip on how to sit backwards, apparently, is better. "The eyes grew less tired watching what had passed than trying always to focus on what was approaching."

But most importantly, and this will ring bells with all those who have struggled to find time for writing, it is a constructive use of an otherwise "dead" hour. Paling, whose literary success comprises a short story and a play — both broadcast on Radio 4 — says: "I give about 40 hours to work. I spend 12 hours a week on the train — nearly two working days. It's the perfect place to write — the world's going by, and yet I'm isolated. Some of the commuter trains at night are as silent as the British Library reading room."

Paling is not the first writer to put commuting to positive use. Anthony Trollope wrote *Barchester Towers* while trav-

elling the country as a surveyor for the Post Office. "I found," he wrote in his autobiography, "that I passed in railway carriages very many hours of my existence... If I intended to make a profitable business out of my writing, and at the same time, to do my best for the Post Office, I must turn these hours to more account."

To this end, Trollope carved himself a wooden "table" which he placed on his knees. He recalled: "I found after a few days' exercise that I could

Weldon, however, enjoyed a luxury neither Paling nor Trollope could afford — the first-class compartment. Travelling second class, elbow-to-elbow with the masses, caused Trollope extreme embarrassment: "My only objection to the practice came from the appearance of literary ostentation, to which I felt myself to be subject when going to work before four or five fellow-passengers. But I got used to it."

Paling, despite 15 years' experience, has still to recom-



Paling wrote his first novel on the daily train journey

write as quickly in a railway carriage as I could at a desk. I worked with a pencil, and what I wrote my wife copied afterwards." Thus were completed *Barchester Towers* and *The Three Clerks*.

Many others have followed his example: from Christopher Wood, the advertising copywriter who penned *Confessions of a Window Cleaner* while travelling to work in London; to Fay Weldon, who for many years took the train from Somerset to her London office; to the American novelist Garrison Keillor, who lost the first draft of *Lake Wobegon Days* on a train.

Weldon used to travel to London twice a week. She wrote by hand and found the sameness of the journey reassuring: "There were no phones, no interruptions. I got in almost two hours of solid work."

He did, however, he would most likely find a fellow bibliophile: the London to Brighton run is Britain's most literary line. It features in Virginia Woolf's *A Writer's Diary* and Patrick Hamilton's *The West Pier*, and it transported the redoubtable Flora Poste to *Cold Comfort Farm*.

So wander along to Victoria station at 6pm today and you'll see Paling settling in for his daily session. He is currently working on a novel that is set — it will come as no surprise — in Brighton. He remains down-to-earth about his success: selling his first novel, he says, has paid for his season ticket. For the moment, that's enough.

● After the Raid (Jonathan Cape, £9.99)

From the author

ADVERTISEMENT

How to Claim Free Land and Property

My name is Simon Hill and I am the author of *The Layman's Guide to Claiming Free Land & Property*. Further to the recent interest in our National announcements, here are the FULL EXCITING DETAILS of my new publication as requested by so many readers.

The guide I have written shows ANYONE how to go about claiming future ownership of all the land and property they could ever wish for FREE — other than the small cost of filing documents.

I am, as you would expect, starting to claim such property and land for myself, in my own area. Over the last few weeks alone, I have already laid claim to 5 plots of land AND to 4 properties. ALL within a 4 mile radius of my own home!

Now that I have completed writing this "Guide", I shall continue to build up my personal portfolio of land and property. It is my intention to carry on with my Claim Program until my personal portfolio reaches an estimated maturity value of not less than ONE MILLION POUNDS STERLING.

HERE ARE THE KEY FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The process of claiming land is totally legal and is dealt with by solicitors on a regular basis...
- Land & Property can be claimed by anyone... young, old, unemployed, students, housewives — even retired couples!
- No capital is required.
- No previous experience or qualifications are needed.
- A Car, Office or Telephone is NOT required.
- Literally ANYONE can lay claim to unoccupied land plots and properties.

HERE IS AN OVERVIEW OF WHAT YOU WILL FIND IN MY GUIDE

- Contents Overview
- Where To Start
- Finding Land & Property
- The Land Registry
- Claiming Registered Land
- Claiming Unregistered Land
- Laying Claim To Property

- Making Money From The Land
- Selling Land Under Claim
- The Do's & Don't's
- Land Development
- Planning Permission
- Possessory Title — The Facts
- Gaining Title Absolute
- EVERYTHING you require for an IMMEDIATE START is included in my package

No special experience is called for on your part. You can claim as many plots as you wish. I would recommend anyone currently contemplating laying claim to unoccupied land to **delay no longer**... Simply because if you don't claim such land soon — someone else certainly will!

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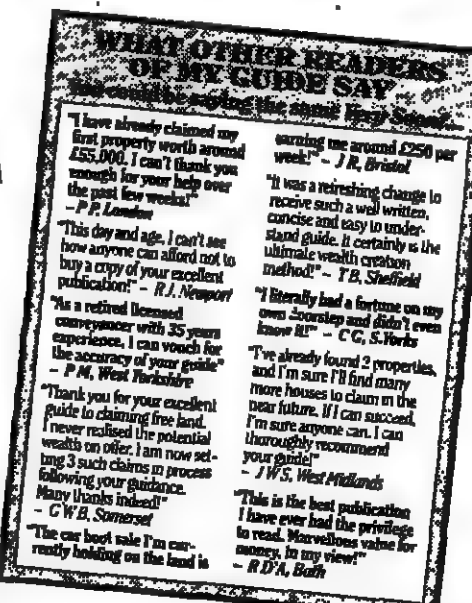
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Matthew Parris



■ His charm could have changed my professional life, but with one breath I was free

Big boys don't sue. So it was disappointing to hear that Michael Foot plans to. He has always seemed to me so conspicuously honourable a man that his word alone would settle the question, and for me, did. That Gordievsky story never caused me a flicker of doubt about him. He rises above it.

No, it's on my own account that a little frisson of anxiety tickled the spine. Gerald Kaufman, I note, has hastened into print with his own story of how the Russians once gave him cash, but as soon as he realised this, he passed it all on to charity. None who knows him could doubt. But who will be next?

Ahem. The trouble with being a light and often fanciful columnist is that when you have a hilarious and unlikely story to relate, people assume you're making it up. For years I have been longing to reveal how at the age of 26 I was nearly recruited by the Bulgarian secret service, but my story would have been read as fiction.

Alas, it is true. Foreign Office records will confirm it. I am perhaps the first man to be saved from treachery by halitosis.

But to begin at the beginning. Few realise quite how many careers I have so far failed at, but one of these was diplomacy. At the age of 24, I turned down an offer to join M16 as a professional spy (another story you won't believe. Can you imagine what sort of nutters are in charge of British espionage today if nutters like me were rejecting the career as too nutty in 1974?). I took a job, instead, as an administrative trainee in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. My initial posting was in Whitehall, first in the Western Europe Department, and later the Rhodesia Department.

One night — it must have been around 1976 — I went to a party given by a colleague in her north London house. A friend had lent me his car: a green Alfa Romeo, as I remember. Lots of FCO chums were there, as well as a sprinkling of young foreign diplomats — friends we knew professionally.

I spent some time talking to a young man I had not met before. He was a Bulgarian of about my age and rank, posted to London. Slim and with dark hair, he was (to me, anyway) extremely good-looking. His English was poor, but he seemed interested in me and my work. I rather forgot the other people at the party, and the time.

So it must have been late when I realised that most of the others had left, and it was time to go. It was now too late for the Underground, and my new Bulgarian friend asked if I would give him a lift into

central London. I lived in Clapham and assured him that central London was not out of my way. Frankly, Tibbuku would not have been out of my way.

As we drove in from Wembley — just the two of us — conversation intensified. I became aware that the Bulgarian was moving across the passenger seat, sitting closer and closer. As the car had bucket seats, this was not a natural way to sit. I have always been hopeless at spotting signs of interest from others, and tend to prefer any explanation to the obvious one. So when even I realise someone is making a pass at me, they always are.

He told me he was unmarried. Always a rather nervous young man, I now became a little worried. Nothing like this had ever happened to me in a car. What should I do? Prudence batted with another impulse. I tried to concentrate on the driving.

As we negotiated the Shepherd's Bush roundabout, the Bulgarian lent so close that he was breathing into my face. I could smell his breath.

The other impulse died. Prudence reassured itself. I had never smelt such breath. It was simply dreadful! Catching a whiff of a leopard seal's breath in Antarctica recently, I was reminded of him. Standards of dentistry in Sofia must have been abysmal. Quite involuntarily I flinched, jerking my head away.

He retreated immediately to his side of the car. Conversation died. "Where are you going?" I asked. "I'll drop you at your door." But he would not tell me, insisting instead that I simply drop him on the Cromwell Road, where we crossed it. This I did. I never saw or spoke to him again.

Could I have been seduced? Yes, if he had flossed his teeth. Would I have been compromised? Undoubtedly. Could I have been blackmailed? Probably not, but there are subtler forms of influence. Was this his plan? I rather think so.

A couple of months later, a chatty postcard arrived from him in Bulgaria, suggesting we might meet again sometime. Thus far I had not mentioned the incident to my superiors, but it did seem best to hand this card over to the security people at the FCO, together with a sparsely written account of the circumstances. It was received without comment.

I often wonder how my life might have turned out if someone had recommended this would-be Bulgarian agent an effective mouthwash. Are young British spies trained in dental hygiene? They should be. Upon the smallest things, destinies can turn.

He might not have been able to blackmail me, but there are other kinds of influence

Barings was trading in a market that even its own directors probably didn't understand

How a great bank was brought low

William Rees-Mogg

The Barings catastrophe is not unique. There have been similar disasters arising from trading in derivatives in other countries, including the United States. There have been similar bank disasters in Japan. But Barings is Barings, the oldest and until last weekend apparently one of the soundest of the independent merchant banks of the City of London. For those of us who can remember the Second World War, the loss of Barings has something of the same impact as the sinking of the *Hood*. At one moment in time it is unthinkable: at the next it has happened.

Precisely what occurred is not yet altogether clear, though the outlines are. A Singapore trader in the bank, not in Barings Securities, was authorised to deal in derivatives. He was speculating for the bank's account, not for clients. Without obeying the rules on disclosure, he built up a very large position, which must have involved a potential liability of some billions of pounds. The position would have made a profit if the Tokyo market had risen, but actually made a loss when it fell. That loss was about £600 million by last Friday night, when some of the position, but apparently not all, had been closed.

As the fall of the Tokyo market was only about 10 per cent in the relevant period, that means he was speculating some £60 million on each percentage point by which it moved. So far his speculation has lost a sum larger than the capital and reserves of the bank — the accumulation of 100 years of successful banking (since the last Barings crisis) has vanished over a weekend. The man, who is British, has disappeared. The bank now has to be sold; as I write rescue talks are still going on at the Bank of England. His action seems either to have been criminal or criminally irresponsible.

Derivatives, options and futures contracts can be very dangerous. A

similar disastrous speculation has bankrupted Orange County in California, the richest county in the richest state of the union. They are dangerous for two reasons. They are very highly geared — the Americans call it "leverage". Each pound of investment may be reflected by £20 of risk in the market, sometimes even more than that. These derivatives are also very difficult to monitor, or even understand.

A friend of mine recently visited a Swiss bank, and was shown the dealing room in which derivatives were traded. He was struck by the youthfulness of all the dealers, and asked the age of the head of the dealing room. He was 28 years old. My friend then asked whether any director of the bank's main board understood what these young dealers were doing; he was told that none of them did.

In the Barings case, the derivatives in question were options, apparently attached to shares. Even by the standards of derivatives, such options are highly artificial and may not be liquid. They are even less well understood than more straightforward options or futures. The man concerned was in any case failing to report what he was doing. The bank had a liability of £600 million, potentially even more than that, without knowing that it existed.

People will leap to the rather natural conclusion that Barings must have been a badly run bank; they will

say that no one in his right mind would allow such risks to be taken, risks which have actually destroyed the independence of the bank. Barings grandchildren, who in 30 years' time will be looking back at a great family tradition that was snuffed out, are bound to think this. Yet I have known several of the leading figures in Barings over the past generation. Barings has not been a very badly run bank, but a good one, highly professional, relatively altruistic, realistic, rather conservative. The par-

allel of the *Hood* again comes to mind. On the bridge, in the engine room, manning the guns, there is an admirable professional crew. One shell penetrates the magazine and the ship is lost.

There must nevertheless be a flaw in the design of so vulnerable a vessel. The basic flaw in the design of *Hood* had been revealed 25 years before she was sunk, when her sister battle-cruiser was sunk in the Battle of Jutland. In order to give these ships extra speed, the deck above the magazine was not armoured-plated; if a shell landed in the wrong place, the

whole battle-cruiser went up. Barings is only one of a number of independent merchant banks in London. Hardly one of them has the capital to lose £600 million and survive. The battle-cruisers had too little armour to take a hit: our banks have too little capital.

The Barings catastrophe will have an impact on the whole derivatives market. That is worldwide, but is little regulated and excessively large. No one really knows how big it is, but some estimates put the annual turnover at several times the gross domestic product of the United States, far larger than any stock market.

chairman and chief executive. Not so long before that, Morgan Grenfell was damaged by the advice it gave to Guinness, and was then taken over by the Deutsche Bank. There may well be overcapacity in corporate finance, now that the 1980s age of takeovers has passed for good. There is certainly a shortage of capital for trading in modern markets. The formation of a smaller group of better capitalised merchant banks — now capitalised, although that will seem inevitable, although that will mean the loss of their independence to clearing banks or other institutions with massive reserves. It may be hard to reconcile this with the flexibility and free intelligence which merchant banks require.

The era of success for hedge funds may also be coming to an end; indeed their 1994 results were already disappointing. In the long bull market of the 1980s, these funds did extremely well because they geared up profits which were relatively easy to make. If the Dow Jones Index went up by 10 per cent each year, then anyone buying derivatives of the index did not have to be particularly clever to make 50 or even 50 per cent. Now everyone is becoming aware of the risks of such geared-up investment.

What has happened to Barings is bad for the City of London, and for the British economy. Barings was doing so many right things. Even its concentration on the Far East, which proved to be the area in which it was ruined, represented a British effort to share in the prosperity of the fastest-growing region in the world. Its professionalism did not protect Barings against the financial equivalent of the food's mate in chess. When it came to the point, one of the best London banks proved to be inadequately controlled and undercapitalised: it was trying to make profits in a market too large for its resources. There are many lessons in that, but there is also a real tragedy.

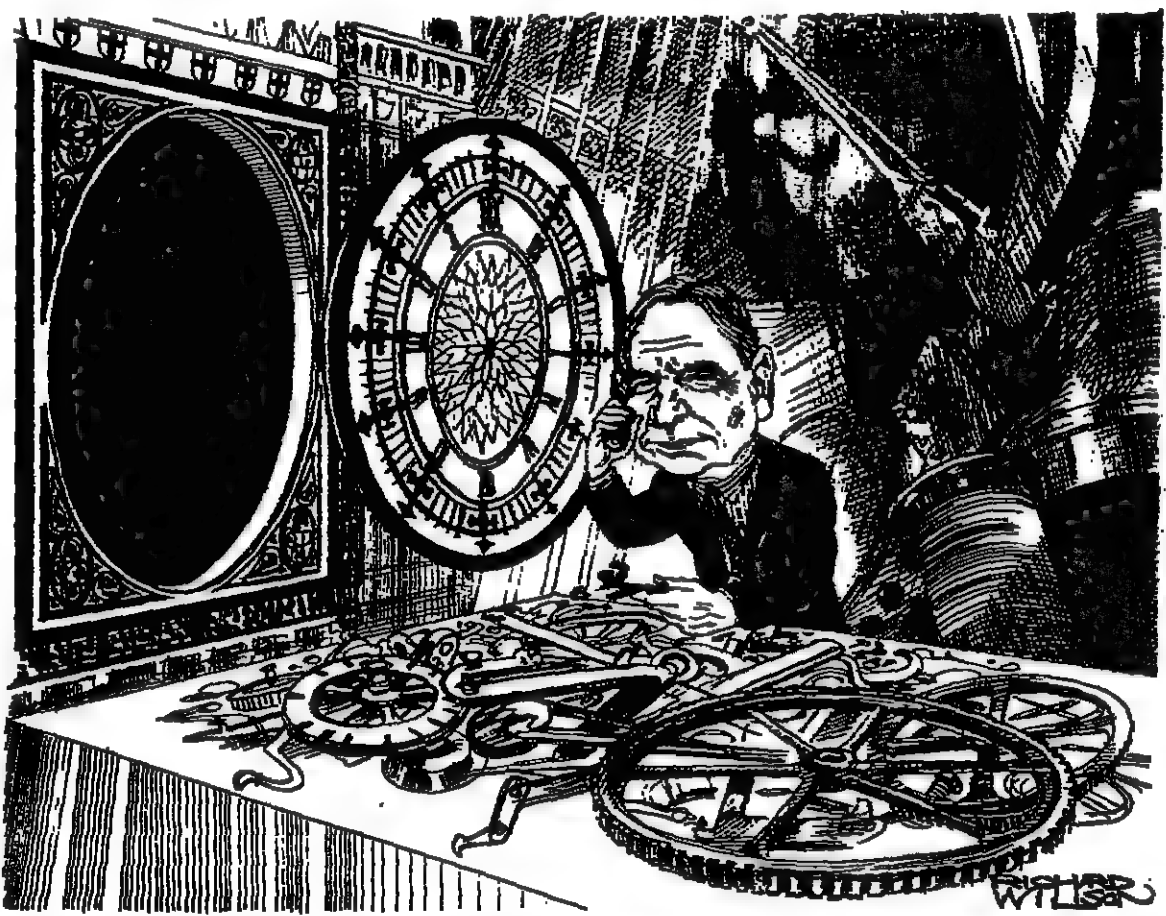
Needed: a new mechanism

Peter Riddell suggests ways to balance the machinery of government

Most official committees are set up to defuse rows and to deter decisions. But the Nolan inquiry is turning out differently — to the private alarm of many ministers and Tory MPs. It has become much more than an investigation into whether MPs should work for lobbying companies, the ethics of jobs for ex-ministers and appointments to quangos. That is the immediate focus as the committee considers the oral evidence of 72 witnesses and nearly 2,000 written submissions, but it has also been asking more basic questions about the exercise of power.

The inquiry has evolved into a study of the constitution, or rather of the practices which have developed over nearly 16 years of one-party rule. That was not what the Government had in mind when the committee was set up in October after allegations about sleaze involving MPs and of party bias in appointments. Most ministers expected the inquiry to confirm that standards in British public life were generally high.

The extent of abuse is unclear. Michael Pinto-Duschinsky had a point in arguing on this page on Friday that the committee has been mistaken not to seek more facts and in relying too much on impressionistic evidence. There are unarguable abuses of the kind now being examined by the Commons Privileges Committee and contained in last year's report from the Public Accounts Committee. But much of the debate is less clear-cut. It is not about whether rules have been broken, but about whether behaviour is tending in an unacceptable direction: whether Jack Straw is right that privatisation, contracting-out and the greater use of



RIDDELL ON MONDAY

private firms have undermined the traditional ethic of public service by creating opportunities for lobbying, influence-peddling (however much the practitioners usually exaggerate their access) and awarding jobs to political allies.

Many people certainly believe that standards in public life have fallen and that Parliament is failing the public. In that respect, perceptions are as important as reality. It is necessary to demonstrate that standards are being maintained. The inquiry is in effect being asked to create the checks and balances which used to result from a rough alternation of parties in power, and are now absent because of one-party rule. That point has, in part, been conceded by the Government in its announcements in recent weeks of a code of conduct for the Civil Service, and of new guide-

lines to bring greater transparency to quangos appointments.

The latter decision, while welcome, only touches on the underlying issue of extension of patronage, which the Government does not seem to understand. Its complacency — reflected in the defensive and unconvincing evidence of David Hunt, the Public Services Minister — is in itself part of the problem. Many ministers cannot understand why there should be wide concern about the Tories' exercise of power for so long. Yet it is in their own interest that there should be new safeguards concerning who makes appointments, going well beyond merely advertising quangos posts.

Few ministers ask the traditional Tory question about whether they

would be content to see their powers exercised by politicians of other parties. Would Virginia Bottomley, for instance, like to see appointments to all hospital trusts being made by Margaret Beckett? A stronger independent vetting procedure is desirable, but there is also a danger of giving more power to the Public Appointments Unit, since, however well-intentioned, its nominations will be from a limited list of the safe and predictable. The real answer (though beyond Nolan's terms of reference) is to limit patronage by decentralising control over hospitals, schools and the like — and that does not mean just local council nominees.

The other main question concerns the character of our politicians. The essential issue is not whether they should be full-time. As Sir Terence Higgins pointed out, with feeling,

most are full-time in the sense of working 50, 60 or more hours a week as MPs. The question is whether we want to accept the growing preponderance of career politicians with little experience of the outside world, or whether we want MPs who have other interests. MPs should be allowed outside interests, but should not receive additional money for performing activities related to membership of the Commons — for instance, asking a question or arranging a meeting with a minister. The probable solution is to ban paid advocacy before Parliament on behalf of an outside interest, as opposed to the providing of advice.

Many ministers are indignant at suggestions that there should be controls on what they do when they leave office. They argue that they are underpaid and that they risk losing ministerial office or their seats quite suddenly. Hence, they should not be prevented from resuming careers in business. However, there are understandable concerns about some former ministers who have taken up directorships in businesses which they privatised. The solution here is not to impose fixed quarantine periods, which might deter people of talent and outside experience from becoming MPs. Rather, let there be flexible vetting procedures — such as those applied to senior civil servants — which impose restrictions only when there is a direct link between decisions in office and the company in question.

The Government's position is weak. Having set up the Nolan inquiry to head off controversy and reassure the public, the Prime Minister will make himself even more unpopular if he rejects its conclusions — although he is said to be sympathetic to tough action against proven abuses. Similarly, MPs are deluding themselves if they believe that a little more transparency will be enough. Even if MPs themselves continue to make the final decisions on breaches of ethics, there is a strong case for an independent, outside element in the regulation of the Commons. The existence of the Nolan inquiry has in itself shown the need for public safeguards on the actions of not just ministers but all MPs.

The money king

MANY a publisher will break into a cold sweat on hearing that a leading novelist is dispensing with the middle man. Timothy Mo, the Hong-Kong-born author who has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize no fewer than three times, has decided to go it alone with his fifth novel.

His last two novels each sold 20,000 copies in hardback, but he confesses that his relationship with Random House had become "uneasy". While so-called vanity publishing is usually the recourse of desperate writers unable to find publishers for their manuscripts, Mo is bullish about his prospects. "I am very independent-minded. I think my Chinese blood gives me great business acumen."

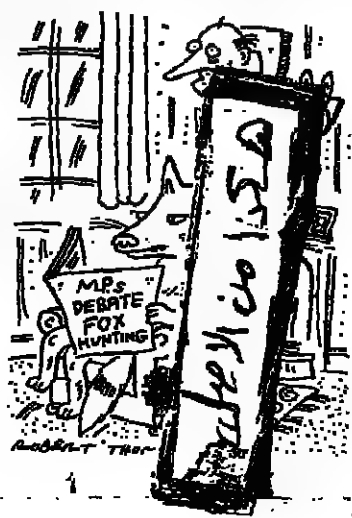
Clearly relishing the prospect of doing his own PR as well, Mo modestly describes the paperback original, *Brownout on Breadfruit Boulevard*, to be launched on April 11, as "brilliant" and "beautifully written". And he predicts a three-fold increase in his take per book, now that he has eschewed his publishers' services.

The heroine of the novel, set in the Philippines, is "an Imelda

Marcos-type character" and, according to its author, the first chapter contains "some of the finest writing in English literature since D.H. Lawrence". Ah...

Barking up?

DRY-AS-DUST Welsh Secretary John Redwood plans to put down roots in the principality despite his notable lack of Welsh blood. From



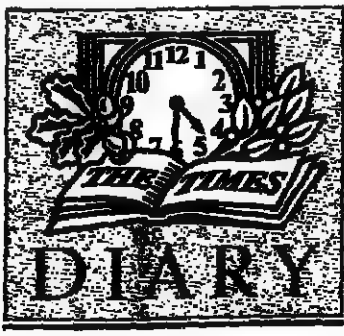
today there will be a corner of a Welsh field that will be forever Redwood: the Thatcherite Cabinet minister is to plant a tree in the grounds of Dyffryn House near Cardiff, to celebrate the 100,000th tree measured and recorded on the Tree Register of the British Isles. It will be — what else? — a redwood.

These sturdy specimens, more commonly found in North America, can soar to 160ft and live for 3,000 years. Septics, however, are dubious about the Welsh planting. The Labour MP for Newport West, Paul Flynn, sniffs: "I don't think Welsh soil will support an alien species so close to St David's Day."

At peace

TRADITIONAL rivalry between Oxford and Cambridge was put aside on Saturday during a touching ceremony in which the editors of *Isis* and *Varsity* repeated an oath of mutual allegiance which was first sworn 60 years ago, when the universities were feeling threatened by the new redbrick colleges. The proceedings, attended by the local Tory MP Peter Butler, began smoothly on the green at Sherington, the Buckinghamshire village midway between the two clusters of spires.

Joint editors Ed Perkins and Kar-



in Giamonne from *Varsity*, and James Goss and Richard Wray from *Isis* swore the oath before solemnly dousing the document with water from the village pump to "wash away any animosity". Then a dove of peace (in reality, a pigeon) was released. "Sadly it flew directly towards the local shooting ground," says Butler. "It hasn't been seen since."

Into the fire

IF STEPHEN FRY thought the critics would lay off him as he agonises about his future, he will be disappointed. Yesterday's *New York Times* denounced his novel *The Hippopotamus*, newly published in America, as a structural disaster and "amateurish".

Critic Joe Queenan claims that

Fry's protagonist crosses the line between iconoclastic curmudgeon and crashing bore quite early in the novel. Clearly no Anglophile, Queenan continues: "The character Mr Fry has created is that second-worst British export (right behind Christmas puddings): the garrulous twit... A tired act on both sides of the Atlantic, a dreary Johnny one-note. Stephen Fry, alas, comes across like P.G. Wodehouse trying to be J.P. Donleavy."

There is great sorrow among Old Etonians at the crisis engulfing Peter Baring, chairman of the prestigious merchant bankers. Peter was famed at the school for his sporting prowess, while his elder brother, Nick (known as "Sam" in those days) was a King's Scholar. Peter used to be particularly formidable at Eton's Field Game, they tell me. "He was the best bup we ever had," sighs one.

Net loss

ALTHOUGH Gillian Clarke sensibly stays aloof from the daily rigours of political life, she has become the innocent victim of one of the recent controversies afflicting the Government. Since Mohamed Al Fayed, owner of Harrods, fell out with John Major & Co, the



Gillian Clarke: inconvenienced by Al Fayed's impolitic antics

Chancellor's wife has been reluctant to venture into the Knightsbridge store.

But at a recent reception at No 11, Mrs Clarke was moaning to Tory party supporters about the personal sacrifice that this voluntary ban has caused: because she used to rely on Harrods to supply the hairnets that she favours to keep her homely bun under control.

"That's the trouble," she whispered over the white wine and canapés. "I can only buy them in Harrods, but I can hardly go there any more. I just don't know what I



am going to do. I am lost without my hairnet."

Whipped Tory Teresa Gorman is finding herself fettered around the nation. Teignbridge district councillor Bill Porrow asked to be photographed presenting her with red, white and blue flowers when she went to Brixham harbour. "I wanted to be more closely identified with her," he says. "It may help me in the May elections."



HAPPY FAMILIES

Values can span a political divide

Discussion of families has been so clouded by political correctness on one side and political embarrassment on the other that "family policy" has almost ceased to exist. Labour, anxious to claim that all family structures are "equally valid", has until recently failed to notice that children tend to thrive better when their parents stay together. And many Tory politicians, since the ill-fated back to basics campaign, have dreaded using the word "family" for fear that their audience would collapse into giggles. It is therefore encouraging to find the beginnings of a new consensus that Government policy has a role in preventing family breakdown.

Last week's report on *Family and Parenthood* for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation openly acknowledges what a few years ago would have been unsayable: children who experience divorce and family conflict are more likely to suffer educationally and psychologically than those whose parents stay relatively happily together. This echoes Tony Blair's own admission that, other things being equal, children are better off with two parents.

Nobody claims that bringing up children is easy. Yet in one sense, almost everyone pretends that it is. Parents are given no preparation for their role and are wary of seeking help. Ante-natal classes spend weeks on the intricacies of the hours before a baby's birth, but almost no time on the days, months and years afterwards. Parents think nothing of consulting a GP if they are ill or a software expert if they cannot work their computer. But they feel inadequate if they ask for help with problems relating to their children or partners.

The traditional British reserve is an obstacle. So is parents' fear that social

workers might try to take their children away. This is why the voluntary sector is the best provider of help. Some small pilot schemes have proved very successful: these include sending Relate counsellors into schools to talk about relationships; the allocation of volunteer parents under the Home Start scheme to advise others under stress; and the work of the Family Nurturing Network to improve parenting in families whose children would otherwise be taken into care.

Such schemes are far cheaper than those that use paid social workers. They are also less intimidating for parents. When they work, they save huge sums that would otherwise be spent on support for divorced families, legal fees, and less tangible social costs. The Government should consider the potential savings of providing more seed-corn money to these voluntary-sector initiatives. It should also consider fiscal reforms. In the past 30 years, families with dependent children have suffered far more at the hands of the tax regime than single and childless people. Many families whose parents would like to take paid work are stuck on benefits for lack of affordable childcare.

Employers too have a role to play. The old working model based on a full-time bread-winning husband with a wife to support him at home is creaking now that 60 per cent of families have two working parents. A move to more flexible hours and places of work and a stronger concentration on output rather than time spent at the workplace would allow parents a healthier balance between work and family. The payback to the employer would come in higher retention rates and a happier workforce. The payback to society as a whole would come in many more ways.

BARING LOSSES

Over-regulation now would compound the damage

Lady Bracknell was a firm believer in unexciting but safe investment portfolios. She might have accepted, however, that the first catastrophe in Barings' history — the great depression of the 1990s in the risky Latin American market — was a misfortune. Its second — as the result of recent rogue trading activities — looks more like carelessness.

How, she might ask, could head office lack the monitoring capacity to detect that one of its dealers had engaged in thousands of transactions, adding up to some £600 million in unsecured speculation? How was deception, if deception there was, possible? The answer lies in the peculiar speed, complexity and lack of transparency of the global market in derivatives — a market to which Barings, only last October, proudly pointed when announcing soaring profits.

Without a successful rescue operation by the Bank of England, what is bad for Barings could prove even worse for the City. The need for better alarm systems appears obvious. Labour's spokesman predictably clamoured yesterday for tight central bank regulation. This goes to show that the party has yet to accept that risk is inherent in the creation of wealth.

Derivatives, properly used, are an invaluable adjunct to modern capitalism. They operate as a form of insurance which reduces the risk inherent in forward trading — the system by which traders, including manufacturers, secure future supplies of commodities or currencies which they expect to need at what they hope will be an advantageous rate. Derivatives allow banks and companies to protect themselves against severe market fluctuations, such as steep rises in interest rates or collapses in the volatile commodity markets.

The value of a derivatives contract is "derived" from the underlying values of currencies, equities, bonds or commodities

— or anything else which will change hands at a future date. A derivatives dealer does not make a purchase: he makes a commitment to buy or sell by a certain date. In most cases, he will have sold his rights on a profit before the contract falls due. If he guesses wrong, as in the Barings case, nemesis strikes when the cash is called.

Derivatives are notoriously difficult to monitor: and a company can suddenly find itself severely exposed by a series of mistaken bets, each quite possibly on a smallish scale. This can happen with great speed, and it has become difficult for bank headquarters to keep track of every transaction.

Warning systems could and should be improved. Nobody has a clear idea of the scale, or structure, of the global derivatives market. The rapid recent growth in trading in derivatives for their own sake, independent of conventional futures markets, has far outpaced monitoring capacity. Because lack of information can mislead investors about the state of market liquidity, steps are required to reduce macroeconomic risk.

In the lending markets, central banks have a good idea of the scale of transactions. A Bank of International Settlements report published yesterday advised central banks to build up a clearer picture of the size and distribution of risks incurred, through regular reporting by the largest players. But the need to minimise the reporting burden on companies is wisely stressed. The proper prudential concern of regulatory authorities is with the efficient functioning of financial markets. The players have every interest in improving their own internal checks. The Bank of England, however, would do the City no service by imposing rules which deprive its marketmakers of the freedom to take calculated risks. That has been the hallmark of the golden square mile since banking in London began.

VEGETABLE LOVES

What a piece of work is popular science filmed well

Although plants do not have private lives in the usual acceptance of the term, Sir David Attenborough's television series has persuaded many of us to suspend our disbelief over the past six weeks. *The Private Life of Plants* has made what used to be called botany dramatic as well as informative. Sir David has found suspense in stamens and wonders deep inside the wallflower. Millions interested in vegetables only when they are stir-fried in gravy have been hooked on the programmes. The BBC's adventures in the undergrowth form the main attraction of its huge programme market at Brighton.

Television stations from China to Sweden have already put in orders worth £1 million for the series. And it will earn millions more this week from the 196 television companies attending the market. Natural history television sells well abroad because it appeals across cultural and linguistic boundaries. Even the most barren land is the habitat of extraordinary creatures and, as the series shows, plants. British time-lapse photography, which makes tendrils grab and grope rather than grow as they do naturally, is ahead of anywhere else.

The fascination of plants could have been made sentimental, at a time when many Britons find it difficult to distinguish between the category of calf and the category of human baby. Anthropomorphism has been a soft-hearted and soft-headed indulgence from Beatrix Potter to television's *Bill*

and *Ben the Flowerpot Men*. But sentimental Disneyfication was avoided. The *maples and ferns* are still uncorrupt, though no doubt, when they come to consciousness, they will pull grimaces and jerk their arms like Sir David.

Nevertheless, it was sometimes difficult not to mistake the plants for animals, as trees were protected by their security guards of biting ants and jellyfish carried their package lunch growing inside them. There was vegetable horror in the attack of the strangler figs, and sex scandal as the orchid got her man. When Sir David described the excremental odour of the durian and then bit into something he described as tasting like liquid marshmallow, ten million viewers swallowed with relief that they had finished supper. Some of his scenes of the ways of the vegetable world needed a certificate requiring parental guidance before being shown, for fear that sensitive children might be put off ever setting foot in a meadow again.

The Private Life of Plants is a classic example of what public service broadcasting exists for. It has made science as compulsive viewing as the most sensational soap opera, without oversimplifying. It has combined education with popular appeal and shown that science does not have to be dull, that learning is the greatest fun. And now it is going to open eyes around the world to vegetable wonders, while incidentally earning Britain much money as well as fame.

Reform of pension rules for divorcees

From Mr Bruce Lidington

Sir, Whilst the proposed changes in the law on pension rights in divorce (reports and leading article, February 22) may lead to greater fairness for a small number of older couples with out dependent children, they will have an adverse effect upon the much larger number of younger divorcees whose financial arrangements must take account of the welfare of dependent children.

These proposals directly echo one of the principal flaws that led to the fiasco of the Child Support Act. Divorce settlements in England and Wales are based upon an entirely discretionary system which is supposed to take the welfare of dependent children as its paramount concern, and thus pension rights in divorce are already taken into account.

The piecemeal imposition of inflexible, statutory rules upon one aspect, in total isolation from the whole, renders the discretionary system unworkable and unjust. Such an unclear and unbalanced situation, working within the adversarial system of English law, can only lead to great acrimony between the parties and make child-supportive divorce even more elusive.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE LIDINGTON
(Chairman),
Families Need Fathers,
134 Curtain Road, EC2
February 23.

From Mr A. Gerry

Sir, Many of your readers may not know that England and Wales are almost the only jurisdiction in the developed world where the courts have no power to split pensions on divorce. Whilst they will take pensions into account in the divorce settlement, the non-availability of other assets to compensate the wife poses great problems and often injustice.

The situation is often grossly unsatisfactory for the husband who has to part with some of his other assets instead of part of his pension. As a practising family lawyer I am confronted by the problem not infrequently, and welcome the statement which was made by the Social Security Minister during the committee stage debate in the Lords on the Pensions Bill on February 22, but I doubt that there is the political will to make the change.

The problem has already been extensively researched. I sat on the Pensions Management Institute's working party which reported and proposed pension splitting on divorce in May 1993. Its recommendations were endorsed in the following September by Professor Goode's pension law review committee, and yet there has been no government statement supporting them.

Without active lobbying of MPs and ministers the Government is likely to fudge the issue, forgetting the constituency of the divorced and divorcing, family lawyers, the Family Law Bar, and many other groups who would like to see this reform of the law. I urge your readers to voice their views strongly.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW GERRY,
Withers (solicitors),
12 Gough Square, EC4.

From District Judge C. J. Tromans

Sir, I am puzzled by the remark attributed to Baroness Young in your report of February 22 that "divorce courts in England and Wales are not obliged to take a husband's pension rights into account when making divorce settlements".

Section 25 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 requires the court, when ordering financial provision in a case of divorce, to have regard to eight specified criteria. The final criterion specifically provides that the court must consider the value to each of the parties to the marriage of any benefit (for example, a pension) which, by reason of the dissolution of the marriage, that party will lose the chance of acquiring.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER TROMANS,
The Law Courts,
Armadale Way, Plymouth, Devon.
February 23.

From Mr Gerald Bartlett

Sir, Your editorial of February 22, "Home and alone", made a strong case for the right of divorced wives to be entitled to a share of their former husbands' pensions.

There exist divorced husbands who, for reasons of unemployment, illness, disablement or choice, stayed at home while their wives worked. They did many of the things wives were traditionally expected to do: ensured that the children were taken to school and collected; cleaned; did decorating and performed DIY functions; cooked; and helped to support their wives in most of the ways a wife traditionally supports a husband.

So, logically, why should such a divorced husband not be entitled to a share of the pension of his former wife?

Yours faithfully,
GERALD BARTLETT,
19 Peckham Road, SE26.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Shedding light on UK incomes gap

From Sir Peter Barclay

Sir, Your leader of February 11 on the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's recently published *Inquiry into Income and Wealth* argued that statistics comparing incomes in Britain with those in other countries do not compare like with like because they cover different time periods.

This was no accident: our report analysed the extent to which the gap has widened, either from the date when the available statistics begin or, if there had been a change of trend, from the date in each country when incomes began to move further apart. We regarded this as preferable to giving fixed dates, which would tend to show up the United Kingdom in a worse light by covering some years when the gap was still narrowing in other countries.

The evidence is clear that the UK's income gap has widened faster than in almost all comparable countries and that the overall growth in the "inequality index" in the UK was greater than in any other country for which statistics are available.

Your second criticism was that, in terms of absolute poverty, those in the lowest 10 per cent range can only be shown to have got poorer, in real terms, if the figures are "manipulated" by removing housing costs.

There is an important explanation to this. Those on lower incomes who receive housing benefit have their rent covered in full; if rents rise, housing benefit goes up by the same amount. Rents for those on housing benefit have risen by substantially more than general inflation over the last 15 years, so "income" from housing benefit has risen commensurately.

However, this extra "income" is exactly matched by extra costs. It would thus be ludicrous to claim that the rise represents any narrowing between those on lower incomes and the rest. The Government's "after housing costs" figures, which avoid this problem, show clearly that people in the middle of the bottom tenth of incomes were worse off, in absolute terms, in the early 1990s compared with those in an equivalent position in 1979.

In his letter of February 20 Mr Peter Thurnham, MP, says that there are people in the bottom income group who actually spend more than the average. A small number of these may indeed be people lying about their incomes; but most of this minority group are people who, at the time of the survey, were running up debt, running down their capital or spending redundancy payments in ways which are, of course, unsustainable.

Mr Thurnham also points to the increase in consumer durables — such as telephones and fridge-freezers — in the home. An undoubted benefit of recent years is the lower real cost and increased availability of many such products. But the official figures show the overall income and expenditure, thereby balancing the items on which more is spent with those on which households have cut back.

The government statistics indicate that the distribution of income is wider today than at any time recorded since the Second World War.

Yours faithfully,
PETER BARCLAY
(Chairman, JRF Income and Wealth Inquiry),
Joseph Rowntree Foundation,
The Homestead, 40 Water End, York.

Tax changes to benefit the family

From the Secretary of State for Health

Sir, At the heart of the Rowntree report on the family (details, February 24) is an encouraging message which some commentators, including Janet Daley (February 23), have tended to overlook. The conventional family is still by far the norm: seven out of ten children today live with two parents.

I believe that a stable two-parent family provides the best opportunity for raising children in the loving environment they need. But it is a large step from saying that to forcing parents to remain in a loveless marriage in a vain attempt to stem the tide of divorce. The right way is a policy which promotes the saving of marriages but accepts that where divorce is inevitable it should be as uncontroversial as possible.

The Rowntree report criticises the tax system which, it says, has over three decades discriminated against married couples with children. Yet how we are taxed has evolved to recognise the growing independence of women, many more of whom now have jobs. This is deep-seated change. It has created tax reform, not the other

way round. The old child tax allowance favoured the better-off. To return to such a system would do so again. It is better to concentrate help where it is most needed: on families with lower incomes. The Government's system of family credit achieves this aim. The new childcare allowance is a further measure to give families who most need help a leg up into independence.

The Government is extending to all parents choice and influence over their children's education. The revolution in home ownership has created a new generation no longer answerable to authority for where they live.

On average, families have seen their incomes rise by over one third ahead of inflation since 1979. Society benefits from economic policies which create wealth, spread wealth and allow its members to keep as much of their own money as possible. This is the Government's agenda. It is one which works for families of all types in all circumstances.

Yours sincerely,
VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY,
Department of Health,
Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, SW1.

NHS salaries

From Mr Roger Fox

Sir, Your report, "Minister pledges NHS job fairness" (February 15, earlier editions), and the letter from the Minister, Gerald Malone, in the same issue are welcome signs that the Government is beginning to respond to public concern about the NHS boards. As one who has had the privilege of serving on such a board, in both a paid and unpaid capacity, I believe that the issue of payment should also be aired.

Non-executive directors are paid

£5,000 per annum. I would argue that at this level of payment the spirit of voluntarism, which is especially valuable in the health services, is undermined. There are many excellent non-executive directors in the NHS and it is difficult to argue that a salary makes them either keener or more dedicated board members.

The present system and the level of public criticism combine to diminish their contribution in the eyes of many outsiders.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER FOX,
53 The Avenue, Chiswick, W4.

Oxbridge club

From Dr J. R. Maddicott

Sir, There are many matters of real concern in higher education on which the heads of 69 Oxbridge colleges might have chosen to concert their forces: for example, the disintegrating system of student finance and the Government's erosion of college fee income.

It is shameful and also mildly ridiculous that such an unprecedented display of collegiate firepower has instead been directed, with such self-righteousness, at the entirely trivial target of the Oxford and Cambridge Club's membership arrangements (letters, February 23, 25).

Yours faithfully,
J. R. MADDICOTT,
40 Victoria Road, Oxford.
February 23.

Happy thought

From Mr E. G. Mosely

Sir, Your illustration of paintings from Gloucester Royal Hospital at the Barbican Centre (Body and Mind, February 16) reminded me that whilst I was a patient there about six years ago, I was able to watch from my ward the construction of a new wing. Glaziers, when they put in a window, often whitewash a large "X" on the glass to warn people that it is there. These workmen used other letters, which spelt out "Get well soon".

Yours truly,
E. G. MOSELY,
86 The Ruys,
Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire.

A livelier profile for amateur music

From the Chairman of the National Federation of Music Societies

Sir, Sixty years ago today 27 musicians, including the composer Sir George Dyson, met in York to share their concerns about inadequate funding for amateur music and the lack of training opportunities for conductors. How little has changed!

Out of the 1935 meeting was born the National Federation of Music Societies, which now represents over 1,500 choirs, orchestras and music clubs nationwide and is the national voice for all who promote live music in the community. Members receive a wide range of services, including training opportunities designed to improve both artistic and administrative skills.

As we prepare to celebrate our diamond jubilee there are some encouraging portents: among them the blurring of distinctions between the amateur and professional sectors of the music industry, the recognition that community-based arts activities are worth encouragement, and the National Lottery.

However, there are also several worrying threats to amateur music in particular. The reduction in schools music tuition is already causing orchestras difficulties in recruiting young players. The imposition of competitive tendering for leisure services and the general squeeze on local authority funding has seen a reduction in the availability of "in-kind" benefits such as amateur rates for rehearsal space and equipment hire.

Through our diamond jubilee we hope to raise the profile of live amateur music. The activities of our member societies are frequently dynamic and innovative: in recent years we have encouraged enterprise in programming, we have endeavoured through schools workshops to ensure that children do not miss early and vital musical opportunities, and we continue to give thousands of young professional musicians their first crucial engagements.

Our tradition of amateur music is envied throughout the world. In 1995 let us ensure that the investment made by our predecessors 60 years ago is preserved and nurtured.

Yours sincerely,
RODERICK J. WYLIE,
Chairman, National Federation of Music Societies,
Francis House, Francis Street, SW1,
February 23.

Phoneday fears

From Dr Antony Warren

Sir, Surely it is of little consequence if four out of ten businesses have yet to respond to Ofel's changes (report, February 20). They can safely assume that their callers will be well aware of them and adjust automatically. Stationery and signs can wait until they are due for renewal.

More disruptive will be the much less well publicised fact that, according to a widely circulated BT leaflet, there are at least 42 dialling codes — for free phone services, mobile phones, premium and reduced-rate services, etc — that will not receive an extra "1".

Applying the instruction "Area codes beginning '0' will start '01'" to these will cause widespread confusion. They should all be changed as soon as is technically possible.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY WARREN,
4 Pearce Close, Cambridge.

From Mr Michael Van Moppes

Sir, With only six weeks to go before Phoneday, BT is still instructing callers to use the old codes. In this area alone (I dare say there are many others) callers dialling recently changed numbers are frequently instructed by recorded message to redial, using a code into which the new "1" has yet not been inserted.

A multinational company so mismanaged as to give customers instructions which are obsolete under its own rules does not deserve the right to inconvenience citizens and damage business. Phoneday should be frozen until BT has brought its own communications up to date.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL VAN MOPPES,
Stonebridge Farmhouse,
Broadwell Lane, St Leonards, Sussex.
February 24.

From Mr Ronald Galliers

Sir, On reading my latest BT statement, dated February 16, I find that their fax number, printed at the top, still reads 081 . . . and that my own phone number is still shown as beginning 071 . . .

The bill was accompanied by a booklet explaining "phoneday" and urging me to "make the change now". I have.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD GALLIERS,
22a Canonbury Park North, NI.

From Mr David Morton

Sir, I have calculated that to dial 071 takes 1.73 seconds and to dial 0171 takes 2.62 seconds.

It would be interesting to know how many telephone calls are made every day in Britain and the consequent waste of time thus imposed by BT.

Regards,
DAVID MORTON,
5 Westmoreland Terrace, SW1.

OBITUARIES

VICTOR MONTAGU

Victor Montagu, formerly Conservative MP for South Dorset, who succeeded his father as Earl of Sandwich in 1962 and a year later disclaimed his peerages, died on February 25 aged 88. He was born on May 22, 1906.

VICTOR MONTAGU, as Viscount Hinchinbrooke, son and heir of the 9th Earl of Sandwich, was a prominent backbencher in the Commons for 21 years. A man of strong convictions and independent views, he did not wear party harness very comfortably and never achieved ministerial office. At one time he resigned the Conservative whip and sat for more than a year as an Independent Conservative.

He was essentially a House of Commons man and when his father died in 1962 he did not relish the prospect of automatic transfer to the House of Lords as the 10th Earl of Sandwich. He never took his seat there and, when the Peerage Act of 1963 made this possible, he disclaimed his peerages for life and became known as Mr Victor Montagu. At the general election of 1964 he contested the marginal seat of Acworth as a Conservative but, with a Liberal intervening, he was unable to dislodge the sitting Labour MP.

After that, in his attempts to get back to the House of Commons, he sought adoption in many constituencies where vacancies arose but always unsuccessfully. In 1968 he had great hopes of being selected as prospective Conservative candidate for North Dorset where the sitting MP was retiring. He based his hopes on his past political association with the county — but the local association rejected him on the ground that he was over 50 and that they preferred a younger man. Montagu, who was then 62, remonstrated with the North Dorset Conservatives in a letter to them in which he wrote: "The political judgment which only comes from long service and maturity of years is needed now at Westminster more than at any time in this century." Thereafter, though he bravely disguised it, he was a disappointed man.

The truth, however, was that he had already irremediably blotted his copybook. In the by-election caused by his own succession to his father's



peerages in 1962 he had refused to support the official Conservative candidate, Angus Maude, and instead had ostentatiously backed a local county councillor, Sir Piers Debenham, who stood as an Anti-Common Market candidate. In the event, Sir Piers garnered more than 5,000 votes and the seat was won by Labour. If only by a majority of 704 (it returned to the Conservative fold at the succeeding general election of 1964).

Alexander Victor Edward Paulet Montagu was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. Viscount

Hinchinbrooke — as he then was — made his first contact with politics as private secretary to Stanley Baldwin, then Lord President of the Council, from 1932 to 1934. For a year after that he engaged in political work for the Conservative Party as treasurer of the Junior Imperial League.

In the early part of the Second World War he served in France with the Northamptonshire Regiment and afterwards on the General Staff, Home Forces. In 1941 he was returned to Parliament unopposed at a by-election as Conservative MP for South Dorset, the constituency which

he represented continuously till 1962. A tall, handsome young man, always immaculately turned out and usually sporting a double-breasted waistcoat, he soon made his mark in the Commons as a backbencher of an independent and courageous cast of mind. Along with Peter Thorneycroft and Thelma Cazalet-Kier, he was one of the founders, and became the first chairman in 1943, of the Tory Reform Committee, a "ginger-group" of young Conservative MPs who helped to nudge the party along to the "new Conservatism" (they were responsible for inflicting on the Coalition Government its sole defeat of the war over the issue of equal pay for women teachers in March 1944). During the period of his chairmanship Hinchinbrooke — or "Hinch" as he was invariably known in the House — set forth some of his own ideas and those of his colleagues in a briefly celebrated book, *Essays in Tory Reform*.

After the war he became chairman of the party's backbench committee on transport and specialised in the House on transport, finance, economics and foreign policy. Once the Conservatives were returned to office in 1951, he was often at odds with his front bench on various aspects of foreign policy and in 1952 he had to face some bitter controversy among Conservatives in his constituency about his views (he defeated a vote of no confidence, supported by his own executive committee, by more than two-to-one). He was also one of the dissenting minority of mainly right-wing Conservative MPs, known as the "Suez Group", who quarrelled with their Government about the conditions accepted as the outcome of the Suez fiasco. In May 1957 he and seven others resigned the Conservative whip and became Independent Conservatives because of what they described as the Government's "capitulation to Nasser". A year later Hinchinbrooke, along with most of the others, applied to rejoin the Conservative Parliamentary Party and had the whip restored to him.

But further troubles lay ahead. When Harold Macmillan announced Britain's original application to join the Common Market in July 1961, Hinchinbrooke emerged as one of the leaders of the backbench rebellion against such a move. He became for a time the toast of the Beaver-

brook newspapers and in 1962 became president of the Anti-Common Market League. It was bad luck that under the peerage law, as it then stood, he had to give up his seat in South Dorset that same year on succeeding to his father's peerages. Had he been allowed to stay in the Commons — he had been a consistent supporter of Tony Benn's efforts to be permitted to enounce his peerage — his political career would almost certainly have survived (President de Gaulle vetoed the first British application to join the European Common Market in January 1963). But, as it was, his participation in the South Dorset by-election left an indelible black mark against his name, not least in Conservative Central Office.

In what eventually became involuntary retirement — he was only 56 when he was forced to leave the Commons — Montagu devoted himself to adding a third garden of specimen shrubs and trees to the two that already existed at Mapperion House in Dorset (he had moved from the traditional family seat of Hinchinbrooke House, near Hinton, in the mid-1950s). He was a popular and respected figure in the county of Dorset and the only indication of a hankering after his former life surfaced with the publication of his book, *The Conservative Dilemma* (1970). Perhaps inevitably it lacked the impact of the earlier work, *Essays in Tory Reform*, published in 1944 when he was still regarded as a rising young MP.

Montagu was married, first, in 1934 to Rosemary, daughter of Major Ralph Harding Peto. This marriage was dissolved in 1958. His second marriage, in 1962, was to Lady Anne Holland-Martin, the widow of a fellow Member of Parliament, Christopher Holland-Martin, and a daughter of the 9th Duke of Devonshire. She was the younger sister of Lady Dorothy Macmillan and thus Montagu became for a short time a relative by marriage of the then Tory leader and Prime Minister. (This marriage was annulled in 1965).

The two sons and four daughters of his first marriage survive him, and the heir to the disclaimed peerages is the elder son John Edward Hollister Montagu, born in 1943, who now succeeds as the 11th Earl of Sandwich.

JACK CLAYTON



Clayton directing Simone Signoret in *Room at the Top*

Jack Clayton, film director, died in Slough, Berkshire, on February 25 aged 73. He was born on March 1, 1921.

JACK CLAYTON was the director of *Room at the Top* (1958), widely considered to be a turning point in British film — the first to treat sex frankly, to regard working-class values unsentimentally and to show the industrial North as it really was. It paved the way for a whole series of films in the late 1950s which came under the banner of "kitchen sink" realism, films such as *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* (1960) and *This Sporting Life* (1963).

Although none of Clayton's subsequent films was to have anything like the same impact as *Room at the Top*, all were distinguished by careful craftsmanship, technical polish and strong pictorial quality.

Clayton followed in the tradition of David Lean and Carol Reed, all of them consummate craftsmen but reluctant artists, and more interested in telling a story than in using film to make a personal statement. If Clayton could be said to have recurring themes, these were the consideration of melancholy, frustration or obsession, emotions which surface just as evidently behind the lavish sets of *The Great Gatsby* (1974) as in the gritty, black-and-white realism of *Room at the Top*.

For all his talent, Clayton's career was notable for its small output. Even at his most prolific he averaged only about one film every three years, and the gaps were often much longer. This was due partly to the usual film maker's difficulty in setting up projects but also to a refusal to accept commercial chores just to keep his hand in. He could not embark on a film without feeling wholeheartedly committed to it.

He was born in Brighton and ran away from school at the age of 15 to launch his film career. He started humbly as a third assistant director — in essence little more than a gofer — for Alexander Korda. During the 1930s he worked steadily through the cutting room and camera department, working with directors like Victor Seastrom and Michael Powell.

He joined the RAF in 1940 as a flight mechanic but was soon transferred to the RAF Film Unit, where he worked on newsreels and documentaries. After the war he was assistant director on Anthony Asquith's *While the Sun Shines* (1946) and then turned to producing, in which capacity he was associated with such films as Korda's *An Ideal Husband* (1947), *The Queen of Spades* (1948), *Moulin Rouge* (1952) and *I Am a Camera* (1955).

He made his directorial debut the same year with *The Bespoke Overcoat*, a "short" based on a story by Gogol. Made for only £5,000, it won awards at the Edinburgh and Venice Film Festivals, as well as an Oscar for best short film. Three years later *Room at*

The Top eclipsed anything Clayton had so far achieved. Adapted from John Braine's bestseller, it starred Laurence Harvey as the social-climbing young northerner who sacrifices love, in the form of Simone Signoret, for ambition, when he impregnates the local industrialist's daughter.

It was the first quality film to carry the new X certificate, and its sexual openness — the love scenes between Harvey and Signoret were much admired — and frank observation of the class system drew a very favourable reaction from audiences and critics. It was certainly a much more satisfactory film than *Lucky Jim*, which a year earlier had managed to reduce the Amis novel to a bawdy shadow of the original.

Despite his success, Clayton refused to be pigeon-holed as one of the "angry young men" directors. He turned down both *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* and *The I-S-Shaped Room* to take a complete change of direction with a ghost story, *The Innocents* (1961), adapted from Henry James's *Turn of the Screw*. In this, Deborah Kerr gave a brilliant performance as the governess who battles to protect her charges from the spirits of two evil former servants. Clayton gave it the full, Gothic, Hammer House of Horror treatment, with long dark corridors, candles blowing out and curtains flapping mysteriously.

He remained with black-and-white for his next film, *The Pumpkin Eater* (1964), which focused on the disintegration of a middle-class marriage. Some critics found the emotional pitch too unremittingly intense but overall it was another polished piece of film-making with excellent performances from Anne Bancroft and James Mason.

The film that followed, *Our Mother's House* (1967), was, however, an unconvincing melodrama about a group of children in Croydon who try to conceal the death of their mother (they have buried her in the garden).

It marked a low-point in Clayton's career which continued throughout the late 1960s, as one abortive project followed another. In fact it was several years before he returned to the screen with the lavish and much-hyped *The Great Gatsby* (1974), scripted by Francis Ford Coppola, a film which even though visually striking, the critics decided was dramatically dull. Tellingly, it won an Oscar for costume design.

Not until 1983 did Clayton return to form with the horror-fantasy *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, and four years later with the heart-rendingly bleak *The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne* (1987), about a piano teacher in Dublin, with an excellent central performance from Maggie Smith.

He was married three times. His first wife was Christine Norden, a British film actress; his second was Kathleen Kath; and his third was Haya Harareet, who survives him. There were no children.

PROFESSOR JOHN BURBIDGE

Professor John Burbidge, OBE, production engineer, died in Abbots Ripton, Bedfordshire, on January 10 aged 79. He was born in Canada on January 15, 1915.

JOHN BURBIDGE devoted his life to making sense of the workshops of industry and making them more efficient. Much of his thinking was against conventional wisdom and found little favour in this country. But the Japanese quickly grasped the implications of his expert research and analysis and — not for the first time — put into engineering practice ideas generated but not adopted in this country.

Burbidge was regarded as the "father" of group technology — the concept of bringing together all the resources necessary to complete a family of parts. This product-focused organisation is in contrast to the traditional process organisation, which groups together similar operations. It is the basis of cellular manufacturing which has revolutionised manufacturing throughout the world.

Ferranti in Edinburgh was a rare exception to the British scepticism towards Burbidge's ideas; the cellular manufacturing system designed for that firm in 1970 was based on his flow analysis principles.

Group technology, the focus of his research, is the simplification of the flow of material through a factory. The task of redesigning a factory comprising perhaps hundreds of machines and thousands of parts can be overwhelming. Burbidge's Production Flow Analysis (PFA) was a systematic method of achieving this redesign and identifying the necessary groupings of ma-

chines and parts. His ideas did find favour with industrial co-operatives, who saw them as a way of giving industrial workers job-satisfaction. He became a consultant with Mondragon, in the Basque country, the largest industrial co-operative in Europe, and began a long association with Novi Sad University, Yugoslavia, which continued up to his death.

Jack Burbidge came of engineering stock, his father representing R. A. Listers in Canada, where Jack was born, and in the United States. The years of the American Depression hit the family hard and forced Burbidge to come down prematurely from Cambridge, where he had begun his studies.

Refusing to be discouraged, in 1934 he was apprenticed to the Bristol Aeroplane Company, learning the craft of his profession the hard way. As the Second World War approached he moved to the Ministry of Supply and then joined up as an RAF engineering officer. He had some memorable tales to tell about the wartime manufacture of Spitfires.

After the war he returned to industry, serving variously as chief planner, sales manager, works director and managing director in such companies as the Bristol Aeroplane Company, R. A. Lister and David Brown. Such wide practical experience laid the foundation for his next career in 1962, when he became a production expert with the International Labour Organisation, serving for five years on assignments in Poland, Cyprus and Egypt, before becoming a professor, in 1967, at the International Training Centre run by the ILO in Turin. He remained in Turin until his retirement from the ILO in 1976.

Burbidge wrote 15 books and more than 150 papers on his speciality, many translated into dozens of languages.

Toward the end of his life his remarkable worth was recognised; he was elected a fellow of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers, an honorary fellow of the Institute of Production Engineers, a fellow of the Institute of Management and received an honorary DSc from Strathclyde University as well as from Novi Sad. He was sought after as a lecturer, giving addresses even in his last year in Israel, Ireland, Yugoslavia and Poland.

Burbidge's natural charm, grace and good manners caused him to be modest in his approach and particularly kind to those students interested in production. His thought-provoking work rarely hit the headlines and was not backed by marketing hype which may explain some of the reluctance of British managers to use his ideas.

He remained impressed by the manner in which the Japanese used production techniques and contended that to compete with them the world had to copy them. Japan was the leading manufacturing nation, he said in 1990, "because they mastered the art of low stock manufacturing." The secret of their success was "simple material flow, based on continuous line flow, or technology, coupled with just-in-time production control".

After his retirement from the ILO Burbidge, who took great pride in his appointment as OBE, was a Visiting Professor at the School of Industrial and Manufacturing Science, Cranfield University.

John Burbidge married Dr Elizabeth Newton-Claire in 1948. She died in 1985 and he is survived by their four sons.

Norman Hunter, writer and conjuror, died on February 23 aged 95. He was born on November 23, 1909.

IN 1992 Penguin Books elevated *The Incredible Adventures of Professor Branestawm* to their series of Puffin Classics. Finding himself positioned alongside William Makepeace Thackeray and Lewis Carroll, the 93-year-old author, Norman Hunter, was delighted. "And they know I'm alive," he marvelled, of his publishers. "They keep paying me royalties."

Norman George Lorimer Hunter was born at the end of Victoria's reign, and remained very much a Victorian in manner — energetic, industrious and old-fashioned. He was educated at Beckenham County School, Kent, and from his early boyhood he was fascinated by all forms of stage magic. In the closing stages of the First World War he served with the London Irish Rifles, the name of which he found a source of constant amusement.

On his return to England he developed two apparently irreconcilable careers. His day job — in which he persevered for fifty years — was as an advertising copywriter. During the evenings, however, he performed at Maskelyne's Theatre of Magic and at the Little Theatre, both in London, as a conjuror. In 1923 he married Sylvia Mary Rangel, who doubled as his stage assistant and who appeared with him in a "Chinese" act, under the stage names of Ho Wai Fun and Me Too.

Hunter's first published book arose from these early experiences in prestidigitation, *Simple Conjuring for All*... with suitable patter (1923) was followed by several

NORMAN HUNTER



The Professor overcomes the difficulty of cleaning the top bedroom windows

other books on the subject, the most recent of which was the *Puffin Book of Magic* (1970). Later in the 1920s he began to submit stories to the children's magazine *Merry-Go-Round*. From these he put together two collections for children: *The Bad Barons of Crashbania* (1932) and *The Incredible Adventures of Professor Branestawm* (1933).

The latter, a comedy about an absent-minded professor, was an instant success. An element of this must be attributed to W. Heath Robinson's splendid drawings — one of that artist's rare forays into children's book illustration.

Norman Hunter had three children, and, after his wife's death, his daughter Mary cared for him during his spirited old age.

libly fresh about Hunter's story and an enduring appeal to the central character, as witnessed by the regularity with which Hunter returned to him in later books.

During and immediately after the Second World War Hunter was the chief copywriter for S. H. Benson, an advertising agency which handled the Guinness account. In 1949 he moved to South Africa and for the next two decades worked in similar posts in Johannesburg.

He returned to England in 1970 and spent much of his retirement at Staines where, during the war, he had lived on a houseboat. He continued to deluge his publishers with a flow of light-hearted, nonsensical children's books, many of them continuing Professor Branestawm's far-fetched adventures, all characterised by his vivacious — at times over-vivacious — storytelling style. Some critics considered his stories were too farcical even by children's standards but, while he never produced anything with quite the same originality as the first *Branestawm*, Hunter's books continued to sell in Puffin.

In retirement Hunter built a model of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, and, with the use of tape recordings and other devices, staged miniature performances of operas ranging from *Iolanthe* to *Siegfried*, chiefly for himself though also for anyone who might care to watch. Scenery and staging were all undertaken by him in conditions which sometimes resembled those of Professor Branestawm's laboratory, but which could result in impressive effects.

Norman Hunter had three children, and, after his wife's death, his daughter Mary cared for him during his spirited old age.

University news

Queen's University, Belfast
Recent grants include:
School of Agriculture and Food Science
Veterinary Science
Dr J. McCauley (joint project), £79,557, the European Commission, Monitoring and improvement of the reliability of inspection procedures applied to residues of veterinary drugs.
School of Biology and Biochemistry
Biology
Dr G. Savidge (in collaboration with Dr K. Jones, Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory (DMIL), £90,042 over three years, Natural Environment Research Council, Nutrient fluxes and phytoplankton dynamics at the Hebridean shelf edge.
School of Clinical Medicine
Ophthalmology
Dr U. Chakravarty, £125,321 over five years, the Wellcome Trust, Investigation of the abnormalities of endothelium derived vasoactive agents in the pathogenesis of diabetic microvascular disease.
Professor D.B. Archer, £89,539

over three years, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, Stereological analysis of the three dimensional structure of the normal and diabetic retinal microvasculature including the effects of Aldose reductase inhibition, antidiabetic and antioxidant treatment.
Professor D.B. Archer, £31,876, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, An investigation of the mechanisms of increased retinal vascular endothelial cell endocytosis in diabetes and its modulation with antioxidants and aminoguanidine.
School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science
Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Dr G.I. Dodds, Professor G.W. Irwin, £116,637 over three years, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Planning and control for multi-arm, co-operative robotic applications.
Professor J.A.C. Stewart, Dr A.D. Paterson, £111,276 over two years, EPSRC, Large-signal characterisation and design of millimetre-wave integrated circuits.

School of Geosciences
Geography
Dr J. Orford (in collaboration with Dr A. White, University College of Wales at Aberystwyth and Dr P. Wilson, University of Ulster), £121,936, Natural Environment Research Council, Recent environmental history of coastal dune fields in North Norfolk and North-East Northumberland in relation to land-sea interactions.
School of Mathematics and Physics
Applied Mathematics & Theoretical Physics
Professors D.S.F. Crothers, P.G. Burke, A. Hibbert, K.T.A. Taylor, A.E. Kingston, B.L. Moseiwisch, Drs K.L. Bell, R.A. Berrington, P.H. Norrington, R.H.G. Reid, M.R.H. Rudie, S. Swain, D.G. Thompson, H.R.J. Walters, £792,843 over four years, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, A rolling programme of research in theoretical atomic molecular and optical physics at QUB, 1994-98.
Pure and Applied Physics and Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics

Professor B. Baines (P&AP), Dr K.L. Bell (AM&TP), Professor P.G. Burke (AM&TP), Dr P.L. Dufon (P&AP), Professor A. Hibbert (AM&TP), Professor E.P. Keenan (P&AP), Professor A.E. Kingston (AM&TP), £660,511 over four years, Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council, A programme of astrophysics research at QUB 1994-98 — extension of rolling grant.
School of Mechanical and Process Engineering
Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
Dr S. Thompson, £169,775 over three years, Department of Economic Development (Industrial Research and Technology Unit, Science and Technology Programme), Improved monitoring and control of boiler fouling.
School of Social Sciences
Social Studies
Professor S. Yearley, £110,620 over 18 months, Economic and Social Research Council, Regulatory Science: Industry, academic research and the European control of chemical toxicity.

A DIVERSITY OF PETS WITH THE 14TH ARMY TALE OF TURKEY EGGS

From Our Special Correspondent in Burma
Most soldiers seem to collect animals when on active service. It is one of the ways in which their paternal instincts find expression. But there can never have been such a diversity of livestock as is to be found today in the Fourteenth Army.

An officer of the Burma Intelligence Corps down in the Arakan kept a pet bear cub, which achieved the distinction of being thrown out of the Grand Hotel in Calcutta for eating the end of a bed. An officer with the 5th Indian Division had a perfectly tame sheep which waited quietly while he worked and slept in his tent at night. Honorary Staff Captain Q has an enchanting Siamese cat at his headquarters, moping disconsolately at the moment because his master is away. A sergeant herpetologist in the transport section keeps a 10ft python, to which he is singularly devoted.

Pet dogs there are in thousands. No Burmese puppy, no pit-dog, however mangy, will starve as long as the British Army is in Burma. Indian Army officers have brought

ON THIS DAY

February 27, 1945



Parrots and monkeys sound harmless enough pets for British soldiers serving in the Far East to keep, but the same cannot be said for the officer's bear cub that was thrown out of the Grand Hotel Calcutta for eating the bed.

dachshunds, bull terriers and spaniels with them. Lieutenant-General Sun Li-jen, commanding the Chinese First Army, has an Alsatian called Moguang, and no fewer than six puppies, named Mytkyina, Bharno, Namkan, and so on, after various scenes of Chinese military prowess. Lieutenant-General Sir Montague Stopford, commanding the XXXII Indian Corps, contents himself with a flock of ducks.

Small monkeys are to be seen riding with the drivers of trucks, nattering angrily at any who have the impertinence to overtake them. Parrots and parakeets, brilliantly coloured

but poor linguists, are to be found in more than one mess. Mules arouse great devotion in the breasts of their Indian muleteers, who cry like children when anything happens to their charges.

Nearly every unit has a little poultry farm. If you want to buy a live hen from a Burmese villager, the current price is an old shirt, three tins of bully beef or 50 cigarettes. The chief characteristic of these fowls is that the cocks crow intermittently all night and the hens are nearly all abstainers from the egg habit.

The most remarkable incident connected with natural history recently concerns turkeys. A young major, commanding a unit serving with the Fourteenth Army, when in Delhi last autumn bought two fine turkeys, a gobbler and a hen, for his unit's Christmas dinner. These birds are almost as rare in India as in war-time England. He took them down to the Arakan, where his unit was stationed. The hen laid her first egg on a ferry crossing the Brahmaputra and the major ate it for breakfast. At Christmas, the turkeys paid the traditional penalty of their kind, but not before the hen had laid six eggs. These were put under a broody Rhode Island Red. After a long journey over some of the worst roads in Asia, the hen, in a coop on the back of a truck, hatched out three small turkeys.

FOOTBALL



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Fergusson displays his true worth at Everton

ROWING



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Creating unity from pieces of eight

RUGBY UNION



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Wasps stung into action in Exeter

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Low-key game with lofty ambitions

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 27 1995



A determined Benn steps up the pressure on McClellan with another fearsome assault during their world super-middleweight championship struggle at the London Arena on Saturday night. Photograph: John Gichigi.

The most brutal fight I have seen

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

I CANNOT remember a fight as violent as Nigel Benn's World Boxing Council super-middleweight title defence against Gerald McClellan. Sugar Ray Leonard against Roberto Duran in Montreal in 1980 and Leonard against Thomas Hearns a year later in Las Vegas were as fierce from start to finish and Hearns's three rounds against Marvin Hagler in 1985 in Las Vegas were more explosive, but, for sheer, unbridled savagery, those contests do not compare with the bout at the London Arena on Saturday.

Both boxers collapsed and both were taken to hospital. Yesterday, McClellan was in a stable condition after an operation to remove a clot from his brain. At 27, his career in the ring is over. The bout will have left boxing looking like little more than legalised street violence.

It is a pity that the serious consequences marred Benn's achievement, for it was his finest performance. The champion had been expected to fold on receiving the first blows from the American challenger, who had been touted as the hardest puncher pound-for-pound in the world.

Benn's chin had looked so vulnerable in so many fights against lesser opponents, but here he took the blows that would have floored heavier men. Benn, who is most dangerous when hurt, fought back ever more ferociously after being knocked through the ropes in the first round.

Frank Warren, the promoter,

said: "You were bitten so much by the drama and gore. That is how I saw Hagler against Hearns. This was ten rounds of Hagler and Hearns. In my time in boxing, this is one of the most dramatic and exciting fights I have seen."

"I think at the end of it Nigel outgassed him. McClellan is a brave guy, but Benn had the bigger heart. He [McClellan] was holding his eye and missing a little, but the big thing was that Benn kept going after him and never took a backward step."

Both boxers possess explosive punches and taking a blow from them can be compared to running full-tilt into a

McClellan stable 1
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lamp-post. Because McClellan is a well-schooled boxer, the 10oz Mexican gloves used for world championship bouts looked, on his fists, no more than the padded coverings they are, but on Benn, a man who likes nothing better than a "tear up", they seemed to be non-existent. The way Benn was leaping in with swinging punches seemed as if he was using a baseball bat.

McClellan is a brilliant technician, who depends on going in behind the jab. He did not find it difficult to break through Benn's defence and screwed some excruciatingly painful right hands into his opponent's face. Benn, not

being as skilful a boxer, had only one plan: to draw McClellan within range and then fly at him with long, looping left hooks and right swings. It worked every time and with every blow that Benn landed, McClellan became more flustered.

Benn tried to ease himself into the bout and was surprised in the first round with the speed and power of McClellan's attack, particularly that of the turned right hand that sent him flying in confusion to the ropes. It looked all over. Benn took more than ten seconds to get back into the ring. The ferocity of the onslaught had cut his right cheek over the bone. He looked a sorry sight. For the rest of the round, he either ducked wildly out of the way from the big punches McClellan began to throw or held or ran round in a disorganised manner.

Benn finally replied by throwing two punches and they proved crucial. Those blows clearly hurt McClellan because, instead of going in to finish Benn in the second round, he backed round the ring, boxing defensively. Perhaps the former world middleweight champion, having stopped 20 of his 33 previous opponents in the first round, had not realised how hard super-middleweights can hit. From then on, McClellan preferred to counter-attack as Benn went after him.

The failure of his all-out attack to the head and body in an attempt to finish Benn in the eighth round broke

McClellan's heart. The onslaught almost succeeded, but, after taking a count of only two, Benn came back for more, beckoning the challenger to engage toe-to-toe. That, together with the distress McClellan was beginning to experience in the ninth round as the result of an accidental clash of heads, drove Benn to greater ferocity.

In the final round, even before Benn could begin to pile in, the disorganisation in McClellan's brain had started to take over. He took two blows and realised something was seriously wrong: he knelt down and shook his head, signifying he did not want to continue.

The bout was shown on television in the United States and it would be surprising if, when the concern for McClellan's health has passed, the Americans did not revise their views of British boxers. Benn has never been acknowledged as a champion in America.

Benn, who suffered from exhaustion but was later allowed home from hospital, expressed his concern for McClellan and revealed the physical demands of the fight. "I am in a lot of pain," he said. "I have never been like this before. I feel as if I have been battered from pillar to post. It is not that I can't take it, but I am not going to take a battering like that in my life."

Benn will have five more fights with Warren, as contracted, and make millions. McClellan will not box again.

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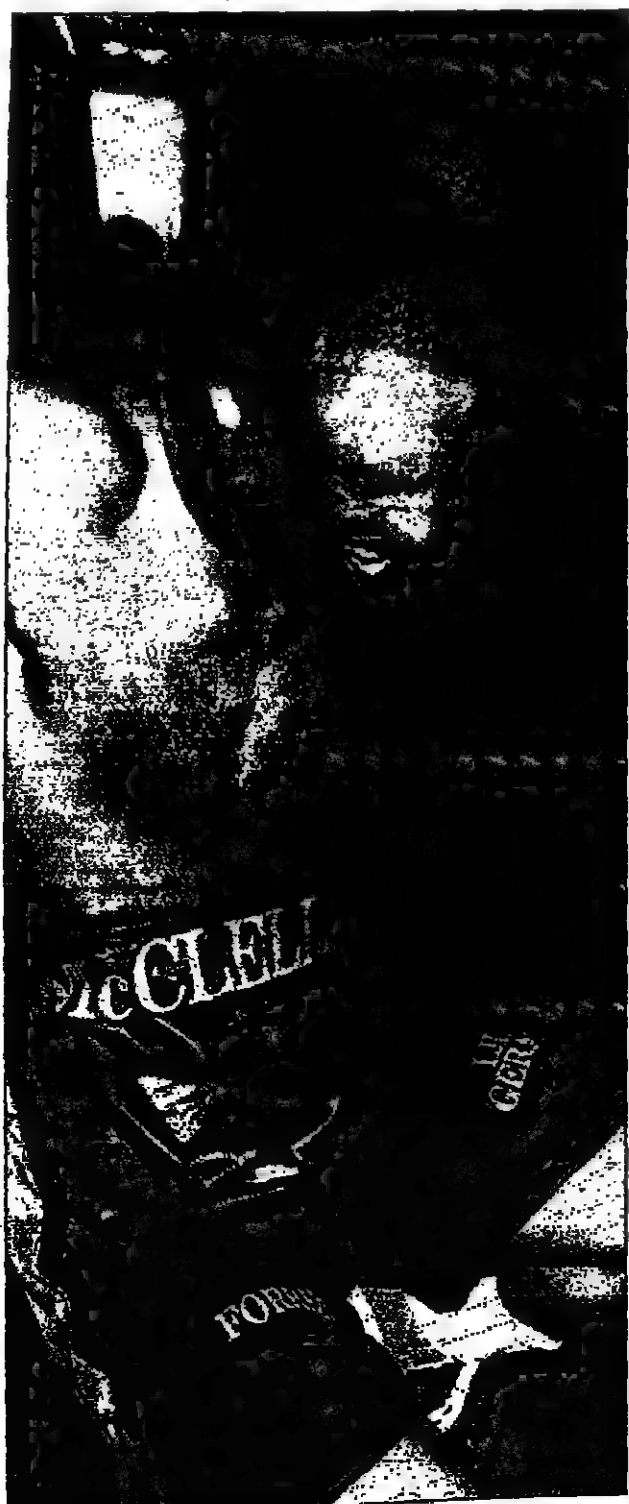
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McClellan slumps to the floor in his corner after falling in his brave bid for the title

TV thriller turns into late-night horror show

Round ten was a terrible round for Gerald McClellan. It was also a pretty awful three minutes for ITV Sport. As we learnt from the death of Ayrton Senna and, more recently, from the riots in Dublin, the ugly transition from sport to news is one of the hardest challenges faced by television sports departments. But that said, Reg Gutteridge and Jim Watt were horribly slow to pick up on the tragedy unfolding in McClellan's corner.

All night, the cameras had picked out the energetic ring-side presence of Frank Bruno. But not once did the cameras find Michael Watson. It was only when I read the Sunday papers that I realised that Watson had been there. As far as the commentary was concerned, he wasn't.

With perfect hindsight, much of what Gutteridge and Watt had to say sounds at best untimely, at worst downright unfortunate. But as long as Gutteridge makes a mental note not to use the horribly ambiguous jargon "he's done him" again, they should not be blamed for that. What the pair might like to reflect on is whether they might have been quicker to acknowledge that some serious physical harm had befallen McClellan. As they, of all people, knew, it had happened before.

Gutteridge, to give him credit, sensed there was something wrong at the beginning of round ten. "He's blinking a lot, Jim... it may be a mannerism, but I doubt it." But having been proved dramatically right, there seemed only modest concern for



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

McClellan's obviously fast deteriorating condition. "There's a Board of Control doctor with Gerald McClellan in the corner — just making sure he's OK." Given that the cameras had shown McClellan going from kneeling to slumped to prostrate in a minute and a half, this already smacked of unthinking understatement.

With Benn apparently oblivious of his opponent's condition, what the moment clearly required was some covering words of concern, the sort that

Harry Carpenter was so good at. In such situations you run the risk of sounding pious and pompous if the fighter eventually clatters to his feet, shakes his head and goes off to congratulate the victor, but at least you have acknowledged that boxing is a dangerous game.

What we got was chaos. Gary Newbon, who emerged with credit from the Bruno v. Marin larc and who was dubbed the voice of ITV boxing by Don King before the

fight, did not help things. With his first question, he plumped for flattery (Nigel, your greatest performance, one of the great boxing performances of all time...) when he should have opened with something about McClellan. It probably wouldn't have made any difference. A hyped-up Benn was in no mood to listen to questions, to such an extent that the worth and wisdom of these instant post-fight interviews must be called in to question. Newbon tried again, but in the heat of the moment confused McClellan with Mike McCallum. Now everyone was confused. The director sought sanctuary in the unlikely form of Jim Rosenthal.

Watt's reading of the fight will come into question — but unfairly. On four separate occasions he queried the

weight of Benn's punches. "That's the big difference between the two," he said in round three. "McClellan's punches are hurting. Benn's have not really got the same impact." He made the same point in rounds six, seven and eight, while in rounds five, six, eight and nine he suggested that Benn was firing the quicker, contradicting both Barry McGuigan and Naseem Hamed. Having seen the fight twice now, he was right — that's exactly how it did look. "Something has to give," Watt said twice. But when he was eventually and tragically proved right, surely a fight veteran of his experience should have entertained the possibility that something was seriously amiss, rather than banging on about "heart". McClellan had plenty of that.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Inquiry to question Williams on crash

FRANK WILLIAMS, the owner of the Williams Formula One motor racing team, is likely to be questioned by Italian prosecutors about the crash at the San Marino grand prix at Imola last year after which Ayrton Senna, three times the world champion, died. Prosecutors will decide whether to recommend bringing manslaughter charges against 17 people, including Williams, his technical director, Patrick Head, and officials of the company that runs the track. "I will have to speak to the representatives of the Williams team again after the conclusions of the experts' report," Maurizio Passarini, the investigating magistrate, said. "I don't know when it will be possible. April 30, the date of the San Marino grand prix, seems too far away. The important thing is to arrange a meeting. It is to their advantage."

Bruges game in doubt

FOOTBALL: FC Bruges, of Belgium, may be unable to stage its European Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg match against Chelsea tomorrow because of a waterlogged pitch. Bruges's league match against Lierse on Saturday was postponed after heavy rain made play impossible. "If the match doesn't take place, it's a disaster for the club," Antoine Vanhove, a club director, said. "We surely hope it doesn't rain any more until Tuesday. We'll do all we can to make sure that this match will be behind us." Uefa, European football's governing body, has told Bruges to stage the game on Wednesday if the pitch is unfit tomorrow evening.

Revenge for Krajicek



TENNIS: Richard Krajicek, left, the unseeded Dutchman, beat Michael Stich, of Germany, in a five-set thriller yesterday to win the Stuttgart men's grand prix tournament. Krajicek's 7-6, 6-3, 6-7, 1-6, 6-3 victory in three hours avenged a loss to the fifth-seeded Stich in the final two years ago that also went the distance. The 23-year-old wasted three match points in the third set tie-break.

Palmer starts strongly

SWIMMING: Paul Palmer, the European and world short-course medal-winner, made a confident start to his long-course season with victory in the 200 metres freestyle at the multination meeting in Leeds yesterday. Palmer, 20, from Lincoln, was challenged for the first half of the race by Gavin Meadows, a local swimmer, but his winning time of 1min 53.06sec was 2.69sec ahead of Meadows.

Agassi pays for defeat

TENNIS: Andre Agassi, the No 2 seed, suffered his first defeat of the year, to Thomas Enqvist, of Sweden, 7-6, 5-7, 6-2 in a stormy semi-final of the United States indoor tournament in Philadelphia. Agassi was out of sorts throughout the 2½-hour match, during which he received a warning and a point penalty, and was booed by spectators afterwards. He was later fined £1,500 for his behaviour.

Bray wastes no time

REAL TENNIS: Chris Bray, the Petworth professional, wrapped up play on the third day of the British Land world championship national eliminator against Julian Snow after only one set at Hampton Court. Bray, the world No 5, was already leading 6-2 after a solid showing on the first two days against Snow, the British No 1 and the world's leading amateur. Bray took the set he needed for overall victory 6-5.

Oriel pushed hard

ROWING: Oriel were pressed to retain the headship of the Oxford University Torpids on Saturday. The rowing was reduced from four days to two because of a swollen stream, and Brasenose pushed Oriel all the way on both days. There were no bumps in the men's first division and only one in the women's, where Somerville were caught by New College and Wadham. Bumps and finishing order, page 32.

Top teams triumph

ICE HOCKEY: Nottingham Panthers, Sheffield Steelers and Cardiff Devils continued to set the pace in the premier division of the British League by winning on Saturday. In the first division, Trafford Metros suffered a setback in their bid for a play-off place by losing to Swindon Wildcats. It was their third successive defeat. They are seven points behind Swindon, in fourth place — the last play-off position.

Ngugi ban upheld



ATHLETICS: The drugs commission of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) has upheld a four-year ban on John Ngugi, left, from Kenya, the five-time world cross country champion. Ngugi was banned for four years after refusing to provide British officials with a urine sample in 1993. Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF president, had asked the commission to re-examine the case.

Zimbabwe pull level

CRICKET: Sharp fielding and tight bowling enabled Zimbabwe to draw the one-day series against Pakistan by completing a 74-run victory with 6.5 overs to spare in the third and final match in Harare yesterday. Chasing 223 to win, Pakistan started well but lost their way after Inzamam-ul-Haq was out for 45 with the score at 106 for four.

Southern comfort

GOLF: Southern Africa, leading 9½-6½ overnight, won the inaugural Alfred Dunhill Challenge against Australasia 14-11 in Johannesburg yesterday. Nick Price and Greg Norman clashed in the singles, Price winning at the 18th. David Frost and Mark McNulty also won while Hendrik Buhrmann, Tony Johnstone and Pulten Allen tied.

Tong beats the men

TABLE TENNIS: Tong Feiming, who came within one point of leading the British league champions, BFL Grove, to the European Cup final ten days ago, beat two male internationals in the British league match against Euston yesterday. She beat Nicky Mason, of England, 21-15, 19-21, 22-20 and Nigel Tyler, of Wales, 21-15, 21-11.

Karlsson overcomes nerves to clinch title

FROM MEL WEBB IN VALENCIA

THREE times in his career Robert Karlsson had finished second in PGA European Tour events, but yesterday the lofty young Swedish golfer went one better by taking the Turespaña Open, Mediterranean title at Escorpión with a score of 276, 12 under par.

Karlsson's victory, which he completed with an occasional jittery final round of 72 in blustery and awkward conditions, gave him victory by three shots from Jarmo Sandelin, who beat off the challenge of Severiano Ballesteros to take the Canary Islands Open two weeks ago. Anders Forsbrand, Sam Torrance and Miguel Ángel Jiménez.

Karlsson, 25, who led from start to finish, thus broke free of a seven-man group of youthful Swedes who had been runners-up in European events. Two of them, Pierre Fulke and Fredrik Lindgren, were on a final leaderboard

raised his arms in triumph after making a par at the last hole and was engulfed and hauled aloft several times by a gang of his compatriots who had been urging him on from the sidelines.

Karlsson, shaken but not stirred by the joyous tomfoolery perpetrated on him by his friends — in Sweden it is known, apparently, as a "hissa" — said that leading from the first round, in which he had scored a course record of 64, had been a tiring experience.

"It has felt like a very long week, but it's been worth it," he said. "I went into the tournament with one main swing thought, to stop swaying forward at the start of the downswing, and that has got me through."

"Simon Holmes, my coach, has been here this week, and although I don't think it's necessarily a good thing to become dependent on him being around, I knew I wasn't swinging well when I arrived here, and, without Simon, I know I wouldn't have won."

Karlsson, at 6ft 5in the Tour's tallest player, birdied the 1st from 30 feet and did not make a mistake until he bogeyed the 9th.

He birdied the 10th and 11th, but failed to get up and down on the 11th, put his ball into trees on the 12th and went into water on the 13th.

If anybody was going to catch him, this was the moment, but his pursuers dutifully failed to take advantage of his errors, and when he birdied the 16th with a 10-foot putt after a nine-iron from 122 yards, he had the tournament won.

Torrance, the leading Briton, was not at his best in spite of recovering from a bout of food poisoning that had kept him up all Friday night.

He had two bogeys on the front nine to leave himself toiling in Karlsson's wake, and when he three-putted the 14th he was back to seven under par and effectively out of the title chase.

He redeemed himself on the 18th, however, covering the 492-yard par-five hole with an immense drive downwind across water and a nine-iron to two feet for a spectacular eagle three.

For Torrance, the £19,952 he collected, that promoted him to ninth in the Ryder Cup table came as considerable consolation for what was an otherwise disappointing final round 73. "I'm not quite ready to win, but I'm getting there," he said. "There are plenty of birdies left in the old dog yet."

England's build-up boosted by two victories

By ALAN RAMSAY

THERE is still a long way to go before the European women's hockey championship in June but already Maggie Souvay, the England coach, has begun to lay the foundations for England's defence of their title.

Over the weekend she took a long look at the building blocks that will form the basis of her final team and scored two wins over Scotland at Lillieshall in the bargain.

On Saturday, a Jane Sixsmith goal gave England a 1-0 victory. Mandy Nicholls dispossessed a defender at the top of the circle and created the chance for Sixsmith to score the 57th international goal of her career. It was the highlight of an otherwise dull encounter that England could have let slip from their grasp right up to the final whistle.

With a squad of 21, Souvay decided to ring the changes for yesterday's encounter and rested four first-string players. Sixsmith, Jo Thompson, Lucy Youngs and Mandy Nicholls were all left to kick their heels on the touchline.

As a tactical move, it looked none too smart when Scotland took the lead with only nine minutes gone. A mix-up in the England defence allowed Fiona McInnes to set up Sue MacDonald for the strike.

As Souvay admitted after the game, it was not a good first half for England, the Scots looking strong and understandably eager to overturn Saturday's defeat. However, midway through the second half, Karen Brown equalised from a penalty corner with a high flick into the top corner of the net.

That seemed to spur England on and two minutes later they should have been ahead when a foul on Jane Smith earned a penalty stroke. However, Lisa Bayliss's shot was saved by Tracey Robb and a second England victory was looking unlikely.

Two goals from Smith in the last five minutes, though, gave Souvay the result she was looking for. First, Tina Cullen forced her way down the right flank and picked out Smith in the circle and, shortly after, a similar move, this time with Mandy Davies providing the cross, had the same result.

Souvay was happy with the double victory and the chance to see all her players in action. However, two wins from two training matches will not persuade such an experienced campaigner that England are on course for a successful defence of their European title.

"In the first half Scotland looked sharper but, once we started moving the ball around, we looked convincing," Souvay said.



Brown, of England, tries to keep possession during the 3-1 win over Scotland yesterday

Teddington go top of table

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

TEDDINGTON took over the leadership of the National Hockey League with an impressive 3-0 win over Old Loughtonians at Chigwell yesterday. It was a reward for a display of doughty defending in depth and threatening play on the break that Old Loughtonians could not resist.

Teddington's striking power was evident as early as the twelfth minute, when McGuire put them ahead from a short corner. Subsequent shots by the same player hit the crossbar and a post and McGuire had another shot taken off the line late in the game by Morrison.

Teddington extended their advantage with two early goals in the second half — the first by Wallis from a short corner and the other by Gibbins from open play. The

home side's best chance arrived about midway in this period, but Krishman's shot was well saved by Meredith.

Old Loughtonians are not out of the running yet in the title race, but Southgate and Reading caught up with them in joint-second place. Southgate after beating Indian Gymkhana 5-1 and Reading after defeating Guildford 3-1.

Guy Gisborne scored three goals, two from penalty strokes, for Southgate, who led 2-1 at half-time. Waugh, from a short corner, and Atalla added to the score, with Michael replying for Gymkhana.

Two goals by Ashdown and one by Wyatt for Reading were answered by Jennings from a short corner for Guildford.

After a 3-1 win over Surbiton on Saturday, Cannock were

checked yesterday by Canterbury, who forced a 2-2 draw after a blank first half, Matthews and Stephen Laslett scoring for Canterbury and Edwards from a penalty stroke and Channa replying for Cannock.

At the end of the day, Firebrands and Slough were still fighting relegation. Firebrands drew 2-2 with Havant, who were saved from defeat by Giles, who scored from a short corner.

St Albans, who conceded two goals in the first 15 minutes at home, recovered to beat Brooklands 3-2 to head the second division. Aldred scored both goals for Brooklands, St Albans hitting back with a goal by Halliday and two from Pell.

Results, page 32

Panthers rally late to beat Bears

By NICHOLAS HARLING

ON A weekend of great comebacks by the teams pursuing Sheffield Sharks, the leaders in basketball's Budweiser League, the achievement of Doncaster Panthers took pride of place. The Panthers were, at one stage, 25 points down away to Worthing Bears before rallying improbably to win 103-98.

They did so with the help of 31 points from Chris Fife, 27 from Greg Modzelewski and 25 from Anthony Joseph. Worthing led 63-49 at half-time and 83-68 at three-quarters but still crumbled despite 35 points from Alan Cunningham, their player-coach who

has discovered a new lease of life after his fortieth birthday. His four three-pointers in the first quarter would have taken his side further ahead than 36-29 but for five from Fife, who finished with seven in all.

The Leopards were in danger of being subjected to the surprise result of the season when they trailed 25-8 to the bottom club, Chester Jets. That they prevailed 87-72 was mainly due to Robert Youngblood's 24 points and Karl Brown's 23. Dave Gardner sank 22 for the Jets.

Manchester Giants threatened to emulate the Panthers and Leopards by coming back strongly against Thames Valley Tigers at Bracknell. Tak-

ing his cue from the earlier splendid work of Mark Robinson, Cam Johnson hauled the Giants back from a deficit of 71-57 just before the end of the third quarter. The American shot the first six points of the last quarter and followed that by sinking his fourth three-pointer 25 seconds from time, taking his tally to 29 points, to cut the lead to two. Two subsequent free throws from Tony Holley enabled the Tigers to edge home 88-84.

The England international climbed out of his sick-bed to score 21 points. "Considering that he had been out with flu all week, Steve was unbelievable," Mick Batt, the Tigers coach, said. "He really showed

his worth." Four three-pointers from Michael Hayles also contributed to the Tigers' success against opponents who had beaten them in both this season's previous encounters. London Towers did not even have the chance of staging a recovery. They suffered a three-hour delay caused by a puncture to the team coach on the long haul to Washington only for the fixture against Sunderland Scorpions to be postponed after Kenny Scott damaged a backboard during the warm-up. As a back-up backboard at the Northumbria Centre was cracked and unusable, the crowd of 1,200 received vouchers for a future game.

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Benn's fightback ends in tragedy

Shocking finale eclipses contest of rare courage

However much Nigel Benn and Gerald McClellan might be admired for their spirited courage in their World Boxing Council super-middleweight bout at the London Arena on Saturday, the bout will be remembered for its tragic ending. The legacy of Benn coming back twice from what appeared certain defeat to win in the tenth and final round left McClellan undergoing an operation in a London hospital for a blood clot on the brain yesterday. His condition last night was described as "stable".

In the tenth round McClellan went down from two blows that normally would not have affected him, one a glancing punch behind the head and the other an upper cut. He simply went down on one knee, blinking his eyes and shaking his head as if in resignation. He was counted out by the referee, who seemed surprised as to why he was not getting up and continuing.

McClellan went back to his corner and, instead of sitting on a stool, flopped onto the floor leaning against the corner cushion as three doctors tried to revive him and cornermen slapped his face gently.

But McClellan's head slipped to one side off the cushion and slowly rested on the floor. The doctors put him onto his back and one of them started shouting: "Can you hear me? Can you hear me?"

McClellan, eyes closed, did not respond. He remained unconscious for 13 minutes and was only removed to the Royal London Hospital after he finally opened his eyes. I could see a doctor's fingers trembling as he put an oxygen mask over McClellan's face and I thought: "How strange". Clearly McClellan was in a serious condition. The doctor removed the mask and then asked: "Can you hear me?" again. McClellan's lips moved but his mouth did not open. It was as if he was trying to speak, but there was no sound. The capacity crowd of 12,000 were cheering as Benn gave them a victory salute. It was sickening to hear the noise around the stricken boxer. But how could the crowd know what was happening in the corner?

One of McClellan's cornermen spoke softly in the boxers' ear: "You are going to be alright, baby, you're going to be alright." Then he started shouting at the doctor: "He's having a seizure, man!"



Srikumar Sen witnesses the awful aftermath of a brutal encounter as doctors battle to save McClellan.

Dr Ferdie Pacheco, a commentator for Showtime, the American cable television company, thought the injections were a relief. Still the doctor shouted: "Can you hear me?" and suddenly McClellan opened his eyes and tried to speak. One of the doctors went to look for a stretcher but found it had gone. He decided to use a St John Ambulance stretcher. "Someone's nicked mine," he said. Of course he did not know that at that time Benn, too, had collapsed on his way back to the dressing room and that stretcher had been used to take him to the same hospital as McClellan's. Benn, 31, was suffering from exhaustion but was later allowed to go home. After a sleepless night Benn said: "The fight doesn't mean anything anymore. I am very upset about it. Someone has been badly injured. I am very distressed with the way things went. I just feel empty."

To many it might have appeared that for the most part Benn was taking the punishment and not McClellan but that was not the case. The fact that Benn was trailing by no more than three points at the time of the stoppage despite having two points deducted for going down twice, in the first and the eighth, merely underlines how

hard Benn was fighting back. McClellan looked on top because his boxing and punching technique was far superior to Benn's, but the champion was hurting him with right hands.

It seems that in the ninth round, McClellan suffered some kind of head damage, which appears to have been the result of a clash of heads when Benn missed with a right and fell over hitting McClellan's head with his. It is most unlikely that the bang on the head was the sole cause of McClellan's head injury. More likely, Benn's earlier blows were having their tragic effect. From about the fifth round McClellan kept pushing his gum shield forward as if he was having trouble breathing.

Anyone receiving blows from Benn for nine rounds is bound to feel the effect some time or another. The fact that the final blows were not well placed does not mean all the previous blows were not taking their toll. Chris Eubank, the World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion who has met Benn in the ring twice, has described Benn as an animal. "He has the power to kill me," Eubank said.

At first it was not clear why McClellan was unable to press home his advantage in the first round when Benn was knocked through the ropes. But Benn's manager, Peter De Fries, probably had the right answer in believing that McClellan, who moved up from middleweight took on a super-middleweight like Benn too early.

Benn himself had pointed this out to McClellan at a press conference and said that he himself had taken months to get used to the new division. But McClellan had claimed that he really was a light-heavyweight struggling to make middleweight and as a result felt very happy as a super-middle. Clearly this was not the case or McClellan would not have come in for this fight at 11st 11lb, three pounds below the limit.



Gill, of West, left, and Penn, of Combined Universities, compete during the All-England territorial lacrosse tournament yesterday

Women with their sights set on Japan

The Cow Roast is set beside the A251 on the Hertfordshire. A seventeenth-century inn, it will come to be regarded by 16 women as one of the more significant landmarks because it also stands on the road to Tokyo, the venue of the next lacrosse World Cup.

"Go towards Tring and look out for the pub with the unfortunate name," was Helen Walsh's advice. One of her duties was to publicise the staging of the second weekend of the All-England territorial tournament, an event which acts effectively as the national trial.

The other was to represent the West against the Combined Universities yesterday. "I'll be easy to spot," she said. "I'm in goal. I'll be the only one in there. You'll be the only one on the sidelines who isn't

a player or a parent." She was right on both counts. The matches were to have been held at Haberdashers' Aske's school in Elstree but the pitch there was waterlogged. They were staged instead on the grounds of the local hockey club.

The West were expected to win and they did, by the hefty margin of 9-2, but the victorious goalkeeper cited two members of the opposition as prime examples of England's most talented youngsters. They were Kate Heywood, 20, and Lucy Shaw, a year younger.

They are certain to be picked in the provisional squad of 30, to be announced in a fortnight, and in the group of 36 to be assembled for the internationals against Wales and Scotland in April. The selection uppermost in their minds, though, lies in March, 1997. Heywood has

Stuart Jones meets England's women's lacrosse stars aiming for the world cup

already experienced the elation of being included in the World Cup squad — and the misery of being excluded, too. She was eventually chosen only as a non-travelling reserve for Australia two years ago. So, without having to endure the process of elimination, was Shaw.

They have since worn the national colours, albeit as members of the under-24 team, in America last year. Before the three tests (as internationals are known), a warm-up game became literally that in Washington, the temperature reached a record high of 97°F. "With the humid-

ity, it was supposed to be closer to 120," Walsh, whose broken thumb was in a cast, recalled. She was perspiring so freely that her knecaps kept falling down her legs. Heywood remembers running down the wing and scarcely being able to breathe through her mouth guard. England lost all three tests, if narrowly.

Heywood is now a wing defender, a position akin to central midfield, and, even at her tender age, acts as the player-coach of Birmingham University's team. Last year they were the All-England champions, an honour thought to be unprecedented for college students.

Shaw, a colleague of Heywood's throughout their apprenticeship in the junior Surrey, South and England sides, followed her to Birmingham as well. Her position is first home, the term

given to the leader of the attack.

Together, they helped to lift the Combined Universities above their customary role as holders of the wooden spoon (by beating the Midlands during the first weekend of a fortnight ago). Together, they aim to assist England against their traditional rivals, the Americans and the Australians, in Japan.

Although the Japanese took up the game only seven years ago, keen interest has been generated. An England representative side, virtually a B team, playing in two exhibitions last year drew crowds of more than 8,000. The hosts, in spite of the friendly nature of the occasions, were shown no mercy. Still novices, they were outclassed 22-0 and 23-1.

The South took the territorial title on goal difference after finishing level on points with the West.

Confident Thomson holds on to his title

By GORDON ALLAN

ANDY THOMSON won the Churchill Insurance world indoor bowls singles championship for the second year running when he defeated Richard Corsie 7-2, 7-6, 7-3, in front of a capacity crowd at the Preston Guild Hall yesterday. It brought him the first prize of £26,000 and made him the first man since Tony Alcock, in 1986 and 1987, to retain his title.

In the earlier rounds, Corsie had been more impressive than Thomson. In the final, however, Thomson played the more consistent bowls, with steadier line and length. The match lasted 1hr 34min and Thomson made a fine start, leading 5-0, conceding two singles, and taking the set with a trail for two shots when there was a possible three down.

He was in serious trouble only in the second set. Corsie led 6-1 before Thomson scored three consecutive twos to overtake him. The third set was the shortest. Corsie picked up three on the second end to make it 3-1.

On the next end, Thomson, holding one, jarred the jack back a foot or so with his last bowl and collected a full house of four shots. On the last end, Corsie knocked his own nearest wood out of the head with his fourth bowl, leaving Thomson with a match-winning two, which had to be confirmed on a measure.

Thomson said: "I didn't bowl as well today as I did against Tony Alcock in our semi-final. Richard's been playing the most incredible bowls I've ever seen in the past two weeks, and I was surprised to win in straight sets." Corsie said: "I can't explain what went wrong today. I wasn't playing at all. Andy's a great champion and I just wish I could have given him a closer game."

On Saturday, in the pairs final, Corsie and Alex Marshall, who won the world outdoor championship in 1992, beat Alcock and David Bryant 6-7, 7-4, 7-3, 1-7, 7-4. Alcock and Bryant have been champions six times but Corsie and Marshall are the first Scots to win the title.

Wigan take stroll in afternoon sun

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

A VOLUBLE ground announcer was tempting provocation, informing Wigan as they took to the mud-baked Mount Pleasant yesterday, that they faced the might of the first winners of the Rugby League Challenge Cup.

That first and last triumph by Batley was in 1897. Only once previously, in Wigan's unbeaten 39th sequence in the Silk Cup competition, had the holders beaten up opponents quite so emphatically.

Gary Connolly, a thoroughly deserved man of the match, had justified grievance with a disallowed try in injury time that would have exceeded the 72-4 second-round defeat of Rochdale Hornets in 1992.

Given that Wigan had scored 11 legitimate tries and Batley were narrowly spared a possible rewriting of their own record books with a new biggest defeat, the protests were brief.

The gulf was embarrassing

at times, with Wigan enjoying a little more than an afternoon stroll and with Leigh going down by an incredible 94-4 at Workington, the second division had a sorry fifth round.

A glorious winter's day at least caused a potential glue-pot of a surface to harden. From Batley's view, however, this was not much blessing. At least the mud might have stopped the Wigan juggernaut in its tracks.

Opting to play up their dreaded slope was not one of

Batley's better decisions. Containment, if that was their objective, had dissolved into utter helplessness by 18 minutes. Wigan, rampant and hungry for more, were 24-0 in front.

At this stage, with Cameron and Gillfillan already off injured, Jeff Grayson, Batley's veteran player-coach, was forced to pitch himself into the fray earlier than anticipated.

The Wigan tide washed over them from the eighth minute onwards, with a freakish try

when Cassidy toed over the Batley line. Although only on for 47 minutes, Martin Offiah managed to take his season's try tally to 41 with three first-half touchdowns, while the forwards, Skerrett and Clarke, managed to get in on the scoring act in the opening period. Paul scored in both halves, but the second 40 minutes was less brutal.

Edwards and Tuigamala touched down late on, while Botica slotted three easy penalties to take his final tally to ten from 11 goal attempts.

Batley, abjectly beaten, did not go unrewarded. On the one occasion they threw the ball with abandon, instead of dropping it, Wilson's long pass found Murrin, who flicked the ball outside to Thornton for his fifteenth try of the season.

SCORERS: Batley: Tye, Thornton, Wigan: Tries: Offiah (3), Paul (2), Cassidy, Skerrett, Clarke, Connolly, Edwards, Tuigamala. Goals: Botica (10), Paul (3). BATLEY: G. Morrison, G. Thornton, J. Grayson (capt.), J. Grayson, J. J. Jones, S. Skerrett, S. Wilson, G. Thornton, A. Tuigamala, M. Scott, C. McWilliams, P. Murrin, D. Gold, M. Cameron (capt.), G. Murrin, S. Botica, G. Edwards, K. Skerrett, M. Paul, H. Cowie, D. Botica, M. Cassidy (capt.), S. Quarmby, A. P. Clarke (capt.), Cassidy (8).

Workington run riot

WORKINGTON'S 94-4 win over Leigh, which lifted them into the Silk Cup Challenge Cup quarter-finals, was the biggest in their history. Their previous best was a 78-0 demolition of Highfield two years ago. They passed that score after just 68 minutes when Dean Marwood ran his fourth try before adding the conversion.

It took Marwood's personal tally in the match to 42 points and equalled his club record

against Highfield — 13 goals and a total of 42 points. Leigh had no answer to a powerful performance from the Combrians who scored 17 tries to reach the last eight.

Mark Aston scored 18 points in Featherstone's 30-10 win over Salford to reach the quarter-finals. The sides were level 10-10 at the break but Aston scored a try early in the second half, landed two dropped goals and kicked six goals from nine attempts.

Wells congratulates selectors

ALAN WELLS, the England A captain, paid tribute to Raymond Illingworth and his fellow selectors in Dhaka yesterday for picking the right team for the tour of India and Bangladesh.

Wells, speaking after England A's three-day match with Bangladesh had ended in a draw, said: "Ray and his panel did a brilliant job as far as I am concerned. It was a privilege for me to captain such a good side. They picked the perfect

blend of batsmen, left and right-handers, to cope with India's spinners. We had a fine line-up of match-winning spinners ourselves, and our swing bowlers always performed to inflict damage when it was most needed."

Expanding his thoughts on the triumphant two-month tour, on which England A lost only one match — the first one-day international against India A in Indore — Wells said: "It's been very tiring but the players should feel immensely

proud of themselves for what they have achieved.

"If I had to mention a word that best sums up our strength, it would be 'adaptability'. We were well prepared at Lillehall and if things went against us we were prepared to change our game accordingly."

England A turned the final day of the tour into a batting exhibition, with neither side prepared to risk anything to achieve a result. It was dominated for all but the final hour by David Hemp and Nick Knight, who shared a third-wicket stand of 283 rich in powerful strokes, immense patience and endurance against a lightweight Bangladesh attack.

Hemp, who batted for just under seven hours, scored 190 from 339 deliveries, with his four sixes and 16 fours drawing generous applause from an appreciative crowd.

Knight contributed 150 — his third century in four innings — as England A piled up 421 for seven in response to Bangladesh's first-innings 365 for six declared.

Australia ease to victory and spoil birthday

AUSTRALIA warmed up for their tour of the West Indies starting later this week when they cruised to a six-wicket victory over New Zealand in the final of the New Zealand Cricket Centenary series in Auckland yesterday.

Set 138 to win after New Zealand struggled to 137 for nine, Australia powered home with 18 overs and five balls to spare, helped by a second-wicket partnership of 88 between Mark Taylor (44) and Mark Waugh (46).

The New Zealand captain, Ken Rutherford, who top-scored with 46, opted to bat first on a grassy pitch that offered early movement to the seamers. Glenn McGrath, Paul Reiffel and Mark Waugh, before the spinners, Shane Warne and Tim May, bowled effectively.

Mark Greatbatch, the batsman, has been recalled to the New Zealand team to face South Africa in a one-off Test match to start on March 4 in Auckland.



McClellan receives treatment after collapsing in the ring at the London Arena

McGuigan urges inquiry

By JOHN GOODBODY AND BILL FROST

BARRY MCGUIGAN, the former world featherweight champion and now president of the Professional Boxers' Association, wants a full inquiry into the medical arrangements at all professional promotions.

McGuigan's call came as MPs and medical organisations made a renewed demand for professional boxing to be outlawed after Gerald McClellan had to be put on a life-support system because of the injuries he sustained in his world super-middleweight title bout with Nigel Benn.

McGuigan said: "I want to have an immediate inquiry with the Professional Boxers' Association. We are meeting in midweek and we may even rush that to have a joint inquiry with the British Boxing Board of Control to review all the pre and post-fight medical arrangements."

John Morris, the Board's secretary, said yesterday that there were five doctors working at the promotion at the London Arena. There were also paramedic teams and two ambulances on stand-by.

Morris said that the Board's regulations did not require an anaesthetist to be present. Instead there had to be a doctor who was experienced in the use of anaesthetics.

Morris explained: "If any injury occurs, he can incubate the boxer, stabilise him and use the necessary drugs. Not only was that in place but we also had an anaesthetist there as well. With the size of the show, it was obvious that it could turn out to be a very grueling contest."

"Everything was in hand. While the doctors were treating McClellan, I was phoning the London Hospital to alert their neurological unit that there was a boxer on the way. In my opinion, the care that was on hand and given was second to none."

John Sutcliffe, the surgeon who operated on McClellan and who treated Bradley Stone, the British boxer who died after a bout last year, said that the oxygen given by medical staff at the ringside had played a "crucial role" in keeping McClellan alive.

However, despite these pre-

cautions, there were renewed calls yesterday from the British Medical Association and Sam Galbraith, a neurosurgeon and Labour MP for Stirling and Bannockburn, to outlaw professional boxing. Watching from the ringside was Michael Watson, one of Benn's former rivals, who has been confined to a wheelchair since a bout with Chris Eubank in 1991.

However, a spokesman for the Health Department said: "If we banned boxing, it would go underground and it would not be regulated as it is now."

Sutcliffe, operating on McClellan at the Royal London Hospital on Saturday night, removed a blood clot measuring 8cm by 6cm. He said yesterday it was too early to know whether the boxer would survive.

He added: "It would be fair to say that he is stable but things could take a change for the better or worse over the next 48 to 72 hours. It is difficult at this stage to predict any damage there may have been."

Everton forward head and shoulders above Cole as striking differences exposed

United toppled by Ferguson's climb

Everton 1
Manchester United 0

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

EVERTON'S win against Manchester United on Saturday demonstrated the basic tenet that football is, and always will be, a team game. Their strategy, their heart, was based on the tenacity with which Barry Horne, the Wales international, was willing to subdue what Joe Royle, the Everton manager, described as "the dogs of war", Ince and Keane.

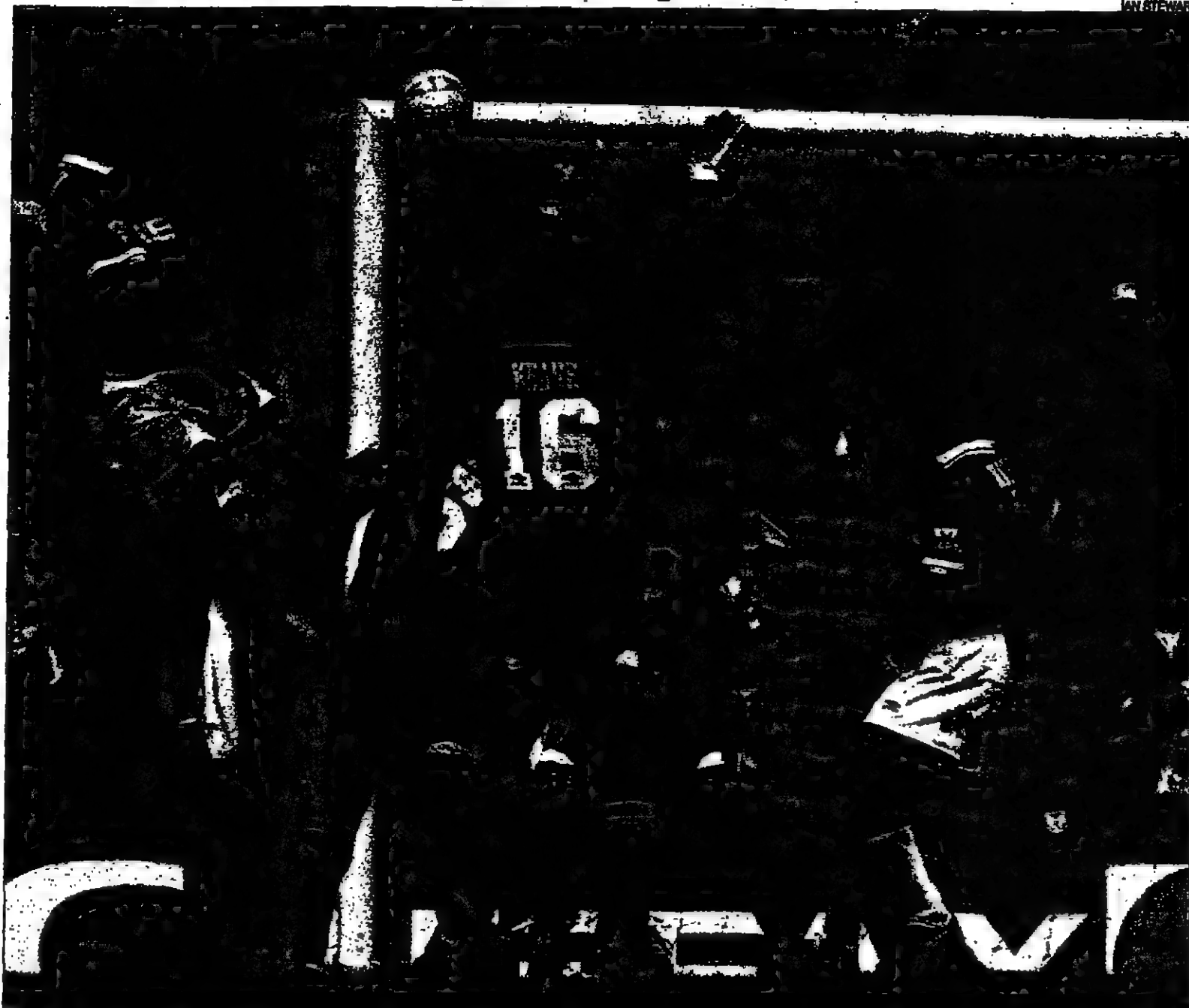
More than that, Everton hungered for survival in the FA Carling Premiership more than Manchester United aspired to a third consecutive title. The hunger, and the teamwork, was extended to the four corners of Goodison Park, crammed with more than 40,000 (greater than the Merseyside derby), supporters and players willing themselves in a frenzy. United, unbeaten anywhere away from home in five months, cracked under the pressure.

That said, there is another, apparently contradictory subplot to the team game. It is that strikers win matches. On that score, the headed goal after 58 minutes by Duncan Ferguson meant more than the contribution of the £7 million misfit, Andy Cole. Ferguson, raw, angular and idolised already on Merseyside, has eternally one foot in the mire of self-destruction that has removed Cantona from United's game.

Manchester United, when they could think of football last week, knew that Ferguson was the man to fear. Alex Ferguson, his namesake and countryman, thought he had prepared his men for the Scotland striker. Indeed, fully cognisant of the left foot of Hinchcliffe, the way that full back can whip the ball into the goalmouth with pace, swerve and mean intent, United had reminded themselves before the game and at half-time that the head of Everton's Ferguson must not be allowed the freedom of his goalmouth.

Thus, it was a goalmouth of the giants: Ferguson at 6ft 4in versus Pallister and Schmeichel at the same prodigious height. But, in that 58th minute, in a moment that could decide both the championship and one of the four relegation places, a Hinchcliffe corner was allowed to cross the face of the United goal. Pallister scarcely jumped and Ferguson, helped himself in the air.

Andy Gray used to say that the Gwladys Street end sucked the ball into the net. They scarcely needed breath on this occasion, and Ferguson, for all his irresponsibility on both sides of the border, could indeed turn out to be what Royle claimed after the match: a bargain at £4 million.



Ferguson rises unchallenged at the far post to head the goal that inflicted the first defeat in 14 matches on Manchester United

The statement was mischievous. Royle knew, and Alex Ferguson conceded, that Manchester United had created more chances, clearer chances, but four instances of profligacy from the £7 million Cole, and two from Hughes, enabled Everton to continue the astonishing home record which, since Royle's appointment, reads played ten, won eight, drawn one, lost one.

Royle is still struggling with his inheritance. He has rejuvenated players like Horne and he used unusual performers, such as Barlow, on the right, and Parkinson, protecting the defence, to ultimate team effect on Saturday. But on his bench he, too, had millions of pounds-worth of wasting assets. Samways, eventually, came on to add a soothing touch of controlled passing once the heat of the final battle had subsided, yet even in the absence of the injured Rideout, there was nothing but a watching, forlorn brief for the forgotten £3 million Nigerian, Daniel Amokachi.

A pity this, for Goodison Park is still a ground that tolerates a pocket of racism — bananas were thrown at Ince. He, combative to the point of dementia, was booked again, as was Ebbrell, and it took tactics of particular spite to arouse any action from the indulgent referee, Joe Worrall.

Yet spite did not rule this match. Nor did the rutted, bare surface hold the key to United's first defeat in 14 games. It was a potent combination of the sheer will of Everton to rise out of the bottom four, coupled with United's inability to cope with Ferguson.

While at one end Cole appeared anxious, snatching at his opportunities when his antennae had put him in a poacher's position, at the other Ferguson was extracting not only the points but the admiration of the rival managers. Alex Ferguson, having been reduced in the end to trying to replicate the effect by sending up Pallister as an attacker,

said of the Everton forward: "He's a handful, a really mobile player for such a big lad."

Royle, surprised at the adulation that Ferguson already attracts, said: "For a big fellow, he jumps well. He's not just a lamppost there, he has touch and pace, and it's up to him what he will achieve in this game."

And what passed between the two team managers? Ferguson was seen to turn away when Royle shook his hand after the final whistle. "All I said was 'that's for last year'!" Royle said innocently. Last year, Royle had been denied a place at Wembley in the FA Cup final with Oldham Athletic by a last-minute equaliser from Hughes, of Manchester United.

EVERTON (4-4-1-1): N. Coulson — E. Barlow, D. Watson, D. Unsworth, A. Hinchcliffe — J. Parkinson — S. Barlow, R. Horne, J. Ebbrell (sub: V. Samways, 71min), A. Unwin — D. Ferguson.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-2): P. Schmeichel — D. Ince, S. Bruce, G. Parkinson, R. Keane, P. Jones, B. McCull (sub: A. Kanchelski, 66, R. Gigg — M. Hughes, A. Cole).
Referee: J. Worrall.

Collymore fails to fire on an unworthy pitch

Queens Park Rangers 1
Nottingham Forest 1

By ROB HUGHES

WHEN the skies are perfect and spring-like, but the carpet beneath the players' feet is utterly worn, bumpy and delectable as it was at Loftus Road yesterday, judging some of the most prodigious scoring talent in English football is an unfair exercise. Stan Collymore will, nevertheless, take quite a while to live down one particular howling error when, barely three yards from an open goal, he collected to shoot over the crossbar. In contrast, Les Ferdinand, with his prodigious leap and, when the instant spot held, extraordinary athleticism, won a point for Queens Park Rangers, although even that was in the role of provider.

Indeed, for the most part, the meeting between Nottingham Forest, who are still edging towards Europe, and Rangers, who are striving for safety from relegation, despite having the cushion of games in hand, resembled little more than a Sunday afternoon stroll among the divots.

"It's not an excuse, but I was sorry for the supporters and for the television viewers that the pitch prevented the game from being a spectacle," Frank Clark, the Forest manager, said. "People talk about vision. Good players who have vision don't have to look down at their feet, but here you did because otherwise the ball would hit you in the shin."

The ball did plenty of that, even to exquisitely talented performers like Bryan Roy, for much of the afternoon, yet Impey, used on the left of midfield in place of the lately-misused Sinclair, managed to light up Loftus Road with a hooped run just before half-time and, in the second half, Roy Impey was trying to launch where bigger names had long given up the struggle at their feet.

After 58 minutes, when Forest finally broke the deadlock, their goal came not to the multi-million pound potential on view but to Steve Stone, a small and premaritally balding 23-year-old Geordie, who has overcome the tribunes of suffering a broken leg three times.

His industry and optimism paid off with his third goal of the season. McDermott had woefully given the ball away to Collymore, who expertly picked out Roy, and after the Dutchman had drawn two defenders, Woon crossed the ball from an acute angle. By now, Collymore was run-

bling back into the centre, but it was Stone who flung himself towards the ball, got inside the hesitant Wilson and headed the goal with force and precision.

Rangers, alternating their strategy and their shape, finally realised that the way to goal was in the air. There would have been no way back had Collymore not made his glaring miss after 71 minutes. Hasland had provided the through ball, Roy had turned on it with thrilling balance and then Collymore missed the unmissable. "It's easily done," a voice said on the radio — it was Gary Lineker, no less.

It seemed reasonable to assume that, for Rangers to save the day, Ferdinand and Gallen, their highly-regarded strikers, would have to make their mark. First Gallen, profiting from a delicate flick by Ferdinand, produced a stunning volley that Crossley palmed over the crossbar.



Ferdinand: athletic

Then Impey scooped the ball up from the left flank, Ferdinand met it with the full force of his forehead and Crossley moved with his knees — the benefit, as professional goalkeepers would explain, of "standing up".

However, Crossley was to fall three minutes from the end. Once again, there was a brief crouch from the left, this time by Wilson. Once again, the leaping power of Ferdinand was too good for Cooper, but this time, Barker was present to use his own head and claim the equalising goal.

Perhaps it was just and perhaps it will save the FA Carling Premiership status of the London club. Without doubt, it was finished by one of the unsung.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): A. Roberts — S. Stone (sub: G. Perrett, 66min), D. Maudsley, A. McDonald, C. Wain — M. Wether (sub: R. Heath, 70), J. Hollman, S. Barker, A. Impey — K. Gallen, L. Ferdinand.
NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M. Crossley — D. Lyle, C. Cross, S. Stone, S. Phillips — S. Stone, A. Hasland, L. Barker, S. Gurney (sub: J. Woon, 58) — S. Roy, S. Collymore.
Referee: P. Darmon.

New Den offers little cheer

Millwall 0
Middlesbrough 0

By RUSSELL KIMMONS

COMPRESS 20 outfield players into a tight pocket, 15 yards either side of the halfway line, and the result can be little else than a hotchpotch of flailing arms, legs and bodies — no room to breathe, no space to manoeuvre — and so it was at the New Den yesterday, as Millwall and Middlesbrough produced a bland excuse of an Endleigh Insurance League first division fixture.

Much had been expected, enough to draw the television cameras for live transmission. Middlesbrough, the early season pace-setters, were attempting to reignite their push for the FA Carling Premiership. Millwall, after lengthy exploits in both cups, were hoping to translate their

knockout form into league points. Neither materialised and, on a sunny yet chill afternoon, the armchair viewers could feel smug at having made the best choice. Better to suffer in warmth and comfort than having to endure such banality at first hand.

"There was no quality on the pitch," Mick McCarthy, the Millwall manager, said, referring to the players rather than the surface. "Middlesbrough make it hard for you, they are tough to break down, and it was all too scrappy."

Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough player-manager, was unable to offer his considered opinion. He made a premature departure with blood streaming from a gashed left eyebrow, which required 12 stitches, after accidentally colliding with Keller, the Millwall goalkeeper, six minutes from time. Mentally, he must have been hurt, too, as

his team continues to stutter nervously as the Premiership prize looks. At least, with the 2-1 defeat of Bolton Wanderers at Derby, Middlesbrough stay in second place — three points behind Tranmere Rovers and with two games in hand.

The frantic scramble in midfield led to no more than a scruffy first-half muddle and the second half offered similar fare. In the 82nd minute, Witter almost handed Middlesbrough victory, but he headed Moore's cross into the ground and narrowly over his own crossbar on the first bounce. Anything, even an own goal, would have been better than nothing.

MILLWALL (4-4-2): M. Keller — M. David, D. Webster, A. Witter, S. Thorne — D. Strain (sub: L. McRobert, 70min), A. Ross, A. Roberts, J. Van den Broek — J. Beckford, D. O'Leary.
MIDDLESBROUGH (4-4-1-1): A. Morris — C. Morris, N. Patterson, S. Vickers, D. Wiles — C. Blackmore, R. Mawson, R. Fobson (sub: J. Wether, 66), A. Morris — J. Fobson (sub: M. Cox, 16) — U. Fuchs.
Referee: C. White.

Mann of principle striving to rebuild

Oxford United 1
Chester City 0

By RUSSELL KIMMONS

AFTER a week dripping with FA Carling Premiership sleaze, in which the not so great and not so good paid the ultimate price, dwell a while on the lot of Derek Mann, youth coach, physiotherapist and caretaker manager of Chester City, the bottom club in the Endleigh Insurance League second division.

Chester, with only three league wins and 17 points, the lowest in the league, are heading a hasty retreat to the third division whence they came with much style as runners-up last season.

Full results and tables Page 28

Mann uses telephone numbers to beg and borrow players from other clubs, not to count transfer fees or unsolicited gifts. Facts, cruel and simple, towards the bottom of the professional pyramid.

Yet Mann, 51, maintains a detached and dignified aura while Chester self-destruct amid the wreckage of three managers in six months. 17 matches without a victory and a spate of five stonings-off in three matches in eight days.

"There's a lot of pressure, a lot of hassle, but I'm enjoying it," Mann said. "I still look after the kids and do the physio work but, with everything else I've taken on, it's now 24 hours a day. As you're driving home, you are still thinking: when you wake up

at night, you are still thinking. There's a lot more stress."

Mann, also back-up sponge-man at the Football Association's national school of excellence, has travelled a humble route from humble roots, as a player with Shrewsbury Town, director of coaching for the Shropshire FA and various posts at Shrewsbury, Watford, Huddersfield Town, Telford United and West Bromwich Albion.

At Chester, he faces his most taxing, most public test yet — picking up the pieces from Graham Barrow's resignation last July and Mike Peile's dismissal last month. Yet Mann retains his calm persona and sticks to his footballing principles, with Chester trying to play their way out of trouble despite the recent bout of red mist. "We are not drops," he said. "Most of the sendings-off have been for hand-ball, double bookings or dissent, not horrible things."

At the Manor Ground on Saturday, though, it was the same story — all pain and no gain. Gilchrist's 52nd-minute header atoned for Moody's penalty miss, five minutes earlier, and edged Oxford United uneasily back into the promotion hunt.

"My biggest worry is that the heads will drop, that we are beaten before we go out there," Mann said. "We mustn't let that happen. If it does, at least Chester's exit and mine will be honourable."

McStay out in the cold

At the 1992 European championship in Sweden, Paul McStay had the windows of his hotel room covered up so that he could take a nap in complete darkness at any time of the day. Three years later the middle-aged player must feel an even stronger desire to shut himself off from the outside world. When a man of McStay's standing is dropped by Celtic, supporters turn into rubbernecks.

People stare in a futile attempt to gauge the club captain's anger and embarrassment. Tommy Burns decided to leave McStay out of the team for the match with Hibernian a fortnight ago and the manager's exclusion order was still in force at the weekend when Celtic drew 1-1 with Heart of Midlothian, at Tynecastle. For most players a spell in the doldrums is just one of the hazards of the profession, but McStay's case is different.

Apart from skills of a high order, it has always seemed that bloodline should guarantee him a place. Two of his great uncles played for Celtic and one, Willie, managed the club during the Second World War. Paul is heir to a great tradition and dropping him feels like a form of dishonour. That legacy, coupled with the precocity of his teenage years, has, however, always been troublesome.

McStay, now 30, was the dominant force in Scotland schoolboy and youth teams whose other players were two years older than him. McStay has also been a distinguished adult and, with 71 caps, is the only player who could possibly overtake Kenny Dalglish's record of 102 appearances for Scotland. For Celtic, too, there have been long spells of sustained authority.

The sturdiness of the double-winning side in 1988 had its origins in the craft with which McStay built the play. He was just as inspiring four years later, although, in a halting tenor, the excellence was unavailing. "The events and decisions of that summer underlie all the wretchedness McStay is now experiencing. His contract was up and he appeared ready to move on."

After the last home match of the season in May, another defeat, McStay tossed his jersey into the "Jungle" enclosure, home of Celtic Park's fiercest denizens. Nobody supposed he would be requiring a replacement. McStay then car-

ried an intense dedication with him to the European championship the following month. Blocking those hotel windows was one sign of a fanatical desire to avoid distractions.

In the matches with Holland, Germany and the CIS (the former Soviet Union), McStay's pride drove him to prove himself the equal, for a week or two at least, of his illustrious counterparts on the Continent. Those performances on the field were also a sales pitch and he did catch the eye of some European clubs. Most, however, had already made their decisions about player purchases for the new season.

It seems that a move to Udinese, in Italy, was possible, but McStay eventually signed the lucrative contract offered by Celtic. The deal made him a wealthy man but it has also impoverished his career. His form, with occasional periods of renaissance, has been sickly ever since.

At his best McStay is a sublime passer of the ball, but has never been the kind of individualist who alone can determine the outcome of a match. A tendency to infuriatingly feckless shooting typifies him. There is less tolerance of that trait now McStay's play-making has lost its edge.

Rumours of a move to Blackburn Rovers are implausible and it is likely that the struggle to reactivate himself will continue at Celtic. McStay, with the scar on his cheek incised by the boot of Nigel Spackman, can look weary of football and all the damage it brings. The hurt was never greater than when he missed the decisive penalty in the shoot-out that decided the Coca-Cola Cup final with Rotherham this season.

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

Bolton fall at the Derby hurdle

Derby County 2
Bolton Wanderers 1

By ALYSON RUDD

BOLTON Wanderers wasted an ideal opportunity to put Tranmere Rovers under pressure at the top of the Endleigh Insurance League first division by succumbing to two goals in four minutes at the end of a match marred by controversy.

Bolton can create havoc among the best defences. After just 50 seconds yesterday it seemed they were in just that mood when Holt, making his debut in the Derby goal, could only parry Sneek's shot and McAteer tapped in.

recovered their composure after Coleman was taken off on a stretcher in the tenth minute. Bruce Rioch, the Bolton manager, ran on to the pitch after Gabbadini had followed through on the central defender.

Rioch described the incident as "nasty" and said Derby should have been down to ten men as a consequence. Rioch also condemned the Derby supporters for cheering when a player was so clearly distressed: "It was disturbing and distasteful."

Roy McFarland, the Derby manager, refused to condemn Gabbadini, who, he said, had slipped at the ball and caught Coleman's leg.

In the 35th minute of a stuttering first half, McAteer

released Sneeks, but when a lob over the keeper was called for, he shot timely at Holt.

After the interval there was more passion and commitment, and Derby kept Bolton at bay, thanks mainly to a fine defensive display by Short.

In the 82nd minute, Kavanagh's free kick was touched on by Simpson, leaving Yates a simple chance to equalise. Four minutes later Mills shrugged off Stubbs to fire a long-range winner past Davidson.

DERBY COUNTY (4-4-2): R. Holt — J. Kavanagh, C. Short, D. Yates, S. Nicholson — J. Hartley, L. Canley (sub: D. Welch, 50min), P. Topley, P. Simpson — M. Gabbadini, L. Mills.
BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): A. Davidson — S. Grant, S. Coleman (sub: M. Peterson, 22), A. Baines, J. Phillips — D. Los, R. Gosselin, J. McAteer, A. Thompson — M. Peterson, J. McGarvey (sub: P. Deane, 75).
Referee: M. Bailey.

'The Boat Race is a test of nerve and courage of Everest proportions'

Creating unity from pieces of eight



Williams, the Cambridge coach, supervises training on the River Ouse at Ely. He hopes to engineer a repeat of the victory of last year. Photograph: Ian Stewart

To suggest that rowing is no more than repetitively shifting a blade-full of water is about as accurate as saying that a sculptor merely chips away the marble he does not want. Rowing at its peak is as refined as a martial clock.

For those rowing in the Boat Race, supposedly one of the year's social events, the occasion is no more social than running a marathon, and as emotionally serious, for seven months beforehand, as getting married.

We all understand the complexity of skill of a Matthew Le Tissier or a Steve Davis because we have all tried to kick a football at some time or other or to sink the black over the length of the snooker table. Rowing is, physically, an utter contradiction: threading a needle with sledgehammer force. Some 600 times in the Boat Race.

The race won last year by Cambridge — according to pundits, one of the most outstanding crews of all time — ranked eighteenth among the year's largest sporting television audiences. Yet not one viewer in 10,000 would have had the slightest conception of the technical triumph being enacted by both crews.

So fine is the margin among eight huge oarsmen, and their

tame parrot calling the shots from the stern, that, when the two crews are announced today for the race on April 1, the respective coaches will be delighted if, during the six months of training so far, their boat has touched perfection even once for a dozen strokes.

Consider, for instance, one fact. Say you are Laird Reed, the 25-year-old American in the engine-room of the Oxford boat, a politics and economics postgraduate from Princeton, a former world junior eight gold medal-winner and 1992 Olympic triathlete, 6ft 4in and 15 stone. If you apply your immense power a fraction too soon as your blade enters the water, you will kick your boat backwards.

"The start of the stroke, at the moment of entry, needs the greatest dexterity," Robin Williams, the Cambridge chief coach, said. "And relaxation. There is this daunting contradiction: at the moment of maximum stress, you need the maximum relaxation, if the boat is to have rhythm and synchronisation."

Such is the stress on individual oarsmen that the months of training are necessary to refine details until they become second nature. A week ago, Williams reports, the Cambridge boat showed

David Miller examines the stresses and strains oarsmen and coaches undergo in the build-up to a unique sporting contest



flashes of 1994 form, and certainly something superior to 1993, when Oxford's almost humiliating run of ten successive victories was finally ended. "If all goes well, we could be looking as good as last year in a month's time," he said, cautiously.

Cambridge's recent victories were greeted by Oxford with the sort of incredulity that some Battle of Britain veterans reserved for the RAF's first qualified woman Tornados pilot. It drove Oxford to summon Dan Topolski, the coaching guru who presided over their years of glory.

He came reluctantly. Topolski rowed for Oxford in 1967 and 1968, represented Great Britain in the European championships the following year, and won a lightweight eight world championship gold medal in 1977. He was Oxford's chief coach from 1972

to 1987, by which time he was no longer enjoying it.

"Our system was falling into disrepair," Topolski said. "The first loss came in spite of having two Olympic gold medalists in the boat, including Jonny Searle. There was no foundation below the peak of the pyramid. I, as second crew, had won only once since 1987, and I was asked to supervise the reconstruction, on a three-year part-time contract."

He finds it, nonetheless, difficult not to get sucked in, so absorbing is the ambience. The Boat Race, he rightly says, is a unique event not just in rowing but in the world of sport. "One race. One opponent. Maybe one chance in a rowing career. No heats, no subsequent repatriates for revenge, no medals for second place. An immensely difficult, tidal course. An endurance test

over nearly five miles, not two kilometres. So public, such hype. Terrifying. Often raced in conditions where world championships would be abandoned. We race until we sink. A test of nerve and courage of Everest proportions."

Topolski dwells on the complexity of the attempt to achieve unison to which Williams refers: the fact that "timing" is less with colleagues in the boat than effort in the water, where there is a relatively long "gate" within which the power can be delivered, early or late. It is possible to be out of time with colleagues yet still in time.

More than anything, however, Topolski has tried to give the Oxford squad an understanding of selection procedures. Of sea-racing, the performance measurement of individuals acquired by swapping one oarsman at a time between two competing four-oared boats, which was abandoned last year, is of acclimatising them to Tideway conditions, winds and bends and rough water, by sending them out in sculls.

"As the stress of the event mounts, with the approach of race day," Topolski said, "you have to reduce the information input. Ultimately, as in all sports, refinement is as much mental as technical."

This perception is echoed by Richard Phelps, president (skipper in colloquial terms) of the Cambridge boat, and a member of the Britain Olympic and world championship eight for the past three years. "In the first couple of months of training, you reach 98 per cent of your boat potential," he said. "It takes the next four months to find the other two per cent."

It should again be a formidable Cambridge crew including, as it does, besides Phelps at No 4, Roger Taylor at bow

and Matthew Parish at No 2 from last year's British eight; Dirk Bangert, of Germany, from the 1993 crew, and Marko Banovic at No 7, from last year's Croatian coxless pairs that finished fifth in the world championship.

Rowing is, outstandingly, the one Oxbridge sport that has fully kept pace with world standards. In the eight years since Beefeater became the race sponsor, 11 Boat Race oarsmen have been in winning crews at Henley; 12 have represented Great Britain; 15 have represented their country at the Olympic Games; and 29 have appeared in world championships. So unique is the race and its hold upon an international public that last year there were 250 million television viewers in 160 nations.

The practice on the Tideway yesterday between Cambridge and a powerful Dutch crew would seem to have determined the place at oar in favour of Russell Stalford, the Hughes Hall postgraduate controversially discarded shortly before the race last year. His rival, Mark Davies, from Christ's, the son of Barry Davies, the BBC television commentator, yesterday steered the Dutch but Cambridge's confident performance meant that a side-by-side duel, which would have tested their nerve, did not materialise.

Davies, who steered the Goldie crew to victory in 1992, has perhaps more Tideway experience than Stalford, whose composure under stress was last year doubted at the last minute, even though he had demonstrated his quality during training at Ely. Cambridge are intent on avoiding any uncertainty this year. Last night the two men were anxiously awaiting the call that would say they were in today's selection.

Rock-and-roll fervour from blue-rinse set

Louise Taylor is given a lively introduction to a fast-growing pastime on a visit to the world indoor bowls championships in Preston

She was almost certainly a 60-something, her hair set in the accustomed blue-rinse style and generous hips accommodated within a sensible pleated skirt. Sensible? Shortly before 1pm on Friday at Preston Guild Hall, the public address attempted to whip up an atmosphere before the men's singles semi-final of the world indoor bowls championships by playing Tina Turner's "Simply the Best". As loudly as allowable. Right on cue, this lady rose to her feet and, hips swaying rhythmically, ample bosom rising and falling to the beat, she acted as impromptu cheerleader.

Holding a scarf outstretched above her head, like a spectator at a football match, her energetic, unsolicited performance prompted everyone else, still conservatively seated, to clap in time to Tina. "I hang on every word you say," belted out the songstress while everyone in the Guild Hall was hooked on our heroine's performance.

She must have been a bonny younger woman, the toast of many a village or town hall hop. After the music died, and she sat demurely in her seat, the bowls appeared in danger of being an anti-climax.

Fortunately, an absorbing four-hour match featuring Andy Thomson's fascinating narrow win over Tony Alcock proved at least equal to that build-up. Though unnerved beforehand by technical talk about nests of woods, jacks and ends, I was, despite utter ignorance, able to enjoy the contest, the sport being simple enough for the uninitiated to be put quickly in the picture and appreciate it.

I had been against bowls since learning that some clubs only condescend women members if they agree to join the tea table. But once in the Guild Hall, I could see why it is one of Britain's fastest-growing pastimes.

At 31, however, I was among the youngest members of an audience that largely looked ideal candidates for Saga holidays. A couple in front of me appeared typical. Placing comfortable cushions on top of their perfectly adequate Guild Hall seats and sharing a bag of pick 'n' mix sweets, they conformed to a cosy stereotype — until such impressions were shattered by the man pulling out a mobile phone and making a series of calls.

An afternoon of the unex-

pected had started when, along with the growing throng, I entered the Guild Hall — via a scruffy, soulless shopping precinct beneath the building. Once inside the reception area, we were confronted by a bank of television screens offering the latest odds from Haydock and a large Ladbroke's betting stall. Across the room was a licensed bar and dotted around were little friendship groups seated at tables enjoying sandwiches and the contents of Thermos flasks. Now I knew what the people in the queue at the door had been hiding in those uniform plastic bags — their lunch.

This rather downmarket image was, however, confounded by a number of cut-glass accents. Can bowls really be a classless sport?

Many spectators probably bypassed this rather tacky reception and settled down in the auditorium to concentrate on the main event. At £2 for a seat with free comprehensive championship programme thrown in, this represented excellent value.

Between ends you could dip into that informative, chatty programme, written in a style that seduced the reader into believing the world of bowls is one big, happy family.

For an alternative perspective, I scanned the *Lancashire Evening Post* which set the scene by declaring: "Two worlds were set to collide in Preston this afternoon with indoor and outdoor bowls champs. Andy Thomson and Tony Alcock, meeting in a global head-to-head at the Guild Hall." Gosh.

Maybe the programme editors were underplaying their product by adopting a grass-roots approach, writing about the sixtieth anniversary dinner of the Avenue Ladies Club, Norwich, or members of Hook BC, Hampshire, installing electric cabling in readiness for their season.

Perhaps not hidden away among such minutiae was the news that the singles champion would win £25,000 with £13,000 going to the runner-up — serious money by most standards.

Small wonder Thomson and Alcock — both trim, fit and youngish-looking — seemed so tense throughout and BBC2 was in rapt attendance. Or that our blue-rinse heroine felt compelled to strut her stuff.

Cambridge start well

CAMBRIDGE could not be accused of picking easy opposition for their first Tideway fixture yesterday when they took on, and beat convincingly, a crew from Nereus, Holland (Mike Rosewell writes).

The Nereus crew included the Dutch coxed four that won bronze at the 1994 world championships and Krijnburg, the stroke of Holland's eight that won silver.

With five of the Dutch crew weighing more than 14 stone, Robin Williams, the new Cambridge coach, had trouble finding a boat big enough for his weekend guests.

The Cambridge crew on show the day before the Official Boat Race Crew Announcement and Challenge

was also not without its stars: it included five present internationals — three Britons, one New Zealander and one Croatian.

The crews did two half-course rows. In the first, from Putney to Chiswick Steps, Cambridge, on Middlesex, went off at slightly the higher rate, moved steadily ahead, had a length's advantage by the mile and then surged away, winning by four lengths, an 11-second margin.

The second contest, from Chiswick Eyt to the Mordlake finish, followed a similar pattern, although Cambridge, again on Middlesex, cleared the Dutch rather quicker and had a 13-second advantage before the line.



Topolski has reluctantly returned to coach Oxford

Putting punishments in perspective

I was walking through Berwick Street market in Soho when one of the street traders turned up the volume of his portable radio and we heard the news bulletin: Eric Cantona suspended until October.

"Tough sentence," said a man who sells icky fruit. "Deserves it — he was a villain," said the one who discounts groceries that have passed their sell-by date. "Him and Graham both."

For those who feel that the authorities have been harsh on a kung fu kick and a man who borrowed some money ... well, quite a lot of money ... for a couple of years, let me remind you of the punishment accorded a "football villain" in 1959. His name was John Crossan. He was 20 years old. He was suspended for life.

At 18, Crossan played for Derry City in the Ulster League. In his second season for that club he was doing well enough as an "amateur" to give up his job at a local gramophone works. The following year he was approached by an English first

CLEMENT FREUD



Afterthoughts

division club with a view to transfer.

Derry, like all Northern Ireland clubs dependent on transfer fees for financial survival, offered to sign Crossan as a professional (you can't sell a man until you pay him on the books) and then split the £6,000 fee down the middle.

Advice came at the young Irishman from all directions and he told his club that he would sign as a pro but his share would have to be £5,000. Derry declined and played him in the reserves as

punishment for his lack of co-operation.

Looking at records for the Fifties, of every 20 Ulster League footballers who signed professional forms, 19 left their clubs within four weeks. Some years earlier Danny Blanchflower had resolved his financial problems by signing for a club of which he was proprietor and managing director, in which capacity he sold himself.

Amateur contracts expire on the last day of the football season and on May 20 Crossan let it be known that he was disgusted with his treatment and was available.

On May 31 he joined Coleraine and two weeks later, for reasons that would seem to have had more to do with sour grapes than upholding the good name of Irish football, Derry City circularised the football leagues of Great Britain admitting that he had offered Crossan £3,000 as an inducement to turn professional, but that Crossan had wanted more. Now they asked all clubs to beware this bad man and advised the national

leagues not to grant registration.

A week into the new season Coleraine sold Crossan to Bristol City, subject to contract, and eight days later he was back in Derry, the Football League having ordered the FA not to register him.

The Irish League ordered a full inquiry and, without giving Crossan the opportunity to attend or be represented, suspended him from football for life. Derry were fined £250; no action was taken against the director who had offered him the money.

Crossan told me at the time that he had no idea what he would have done with £5,000 had he got it. He stayed on the ground staff at Coleraine and trained there three days a week.

As he walked through the streets of his native town, people who knew him and had read that he was appealing against the verdict came up to ask: "Any news?" He would shake his head and say: "Still waiting."

It was 1962 before he next kicked a football in earnest.

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Braithwaite too sharp for bristling Christie

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

GIVEN that Linford Christie has caught up with the fashion among British sprinters for growing beards, it seems appropriate to observe that his defeat by Darren Braithwaite on Saturday was by the merest whisker. If Christie is superstitious he will have removed his week's growth before this evening, when he is due to race Braithwaite indoors again, in Stockholm.

Christie's second place in the 60 metres at the KP Invitational in Birmingham was a rare loss to a fellow Briton and the possibility of two in three days is as unlikely as the British Athletic Federation (BAF) running a smooth operation. "You guys [the media] talk about my age, so I have got to start looking it," Christie, 34, said of his beard. Only a fool would suggest that one loss makes him an old man.

Christie applauded Braithwaite's victory, but added: "One race does not make you a champion." His razor will be out for Braithwaite and his "goatee" tonight.

Braithwaite, 26, from Harrogate AC, had the worst day of his life when he dropped the baton in the sprint relay at the

the best shape of my life". He said Stewart and "the coaches", mentioning Malcolm Arnold by name, had treated him shabbily. Stewart considered employing a ninth lane to allow Rosswess to run in the final but international rules do not allow it. While the onus must be on officials to ensure that athletes are informed of changes, a competitor of Rosswess's experience should know to double-check.

"Ian Stewart said if you don't run, you don't get paid, and I have got bills to pay," Rosswess said. Stewart said later that he would "analyse the situation".

Needing analysis, too, is why the event was not a sell-out. Stewart could hardly have done more to put on a meeting with spectator appeal, especially as most American athletes were competing in Fairfax, Virginia, and some European countries were staging their national championships.

As well as British representation from Christie, John Regis and Tony Jarrett, the overseas cast was impressive: Irina Privalova, Frankie Fredericks, Moses Kiptanui to name but three. Inadequate marketing and inflated ticket prices seem responsible for a crowd that Stewart said was 6,800 but, in an arena which holds 8,000, seemed closer to 5,000.

Christie's disclosure that he will, after all, contest the world indoor championships, at 60 metres, is in contrast to many top athletes who will be missing, among them Fredericks, winner of the 200 metres in Birmingham, and Venuste Nyongabo, winner of the 3,000 metres.

Racing against Fredericks, Regis was disqualified for breaching his lane for his second successive 200 metres and, behind Nyongabo, John Maycock came within three seconds of Rob Denmark's British record, recording 7min 46.80sec.

Braithwaite apart, there was only one British winner: Jarrett, in the 60 metres hurdles. However, Ashia Hansen nudged closer towards the Barcelona medal reckoning with a Commonwealth record of 14.29 metres in the triple jump; Paula Thomas became the second quickest British woman 200 metres runner with 23.51sec; Melanie Neef set a Scottish 400 metres record with 52.57sec and Paul Williamson and Kevin Hughes cleared 5.30 metres in the pole vault.

Results Page 32

European championships last summer. "I was so dejected," he said. "People in the street would say: 'You're the one who dropped the baton.' I should be recognised now for his ability."

One would have thought, after the débacle of the European cross-country championships, when Britain selected one woman too many, that the BAF would have been stung into being meticulous in its dealings with athletes. Not so: Ian Stewart, the head of promotions, admitted there had been "an administrative error" in the case of Michael Rosswess.

Rosswess, twice a European bronze medal-winner in the 60 metres, was not informed that the timetable had been changed to include heats and missed the event. For Rosswess and Braithwaite, this was effectively to have been a run-off to determine Christie's partner for the world indoor championships in Barcelona next month.

Rosswess has a best equal to Braithwaite's time on Saturday, 6.54sec. He was previously the last Briton to beat Christie and claimed to be "in



Alex Rogan, of St Paul's, gets to grips with Adrian Li, of Harrow, during the independent schools' judo championships at High Wycombe

Bowing to the value of gentle discipline

By TOM CHESHAM

THE judge cried "waza-ari mata-ippun," with a flamboyant wave of his hand at two boys caught in a body lock. He made them stand to attention and then pointed to the winner. The boys bowed solemnly, shook hands, retreated a few steps and bowed again.

Japanese rules and etiquette were carefully observed by the 130 competitors aged from 13 to 18 in the independent schools' judo championships at High Wycombe on Saturday. The officials were strict: even a slightly untucked judogi — the heavy white costume used during fights — would bring a severe reprimand.

"Judo is a discipline sport," Bob Taylor, the event's organiser and judo coach at Winchester College, said. "It is important that youngsters learn to be disciplined early on. Not only does it make them better at judo, but it is something that can help in other walks of life."

The championship has steadily grown in popularity

since it began in 1990. This year there was a record entry with 13 schools from around the country. Medals were up for grabs in 16 different age and weight categories. A special prize, the Budokwai Trophy, presented on behalf of the Budokwai Judo Club in London, was on offer for the competitor who showed the "best fighting spirit".

Standards were high, and Robert Barracough, 16, of Manchester Grammar, a black belt, particularly caught the eye. He outclassed his rivals to win the intermediate under-78kg section.

"When I get out there I am totally keyed-in and focused," Barracough said. "It's all about who wants to win the most and I always try to make sure that person is me. I like the physical aspect of testing out my strength and speed against somebody else's."

Tony Sweeney, who represented Britain at judo in the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games and is now coach at St Paul's, said: "What is great about this championship is that it provides valuable competition ex-



perience on proper mats with professional judges. Also, because there are so many taking part, it means that people can be matched up quite closely in terms of weight."

Pangbourne College, repeating last year's success, won the overall schools' title with winners in five categories. One of the college's best performances came from Luke Blackburn, 15, in the intermediate under-78kg section.

Blackburn, who is deaf and relies on judges' hand-signals during contests, said: "It is a good sport for me because it does not depend on hearing."

In a team sport like rugby, being able to hear is important and it can cause me to make mistakes and let the side down."

The Budokwai Trophy went to Colin Years, 17, from Eton School, who did not win a medal in the senior under-60kg section but impressed the judges with his faultless technique and sense of fair play.

"I was completely shocked by the prize," Years said modestly. "It helps to be ruthless in judo but I think that you should not try to hurt your opponent unnecessarily."

Things heated up towards the end of the day when the older boys, who were allowed to use more sophisticated and demanding arm-locks, took to the mats.

A fierce battle for medals took place in the senior under-78kg section. With a noisy crowd cheering them on, Barnaby Chesterman and Patrick Milling-Smith, despite both looking exhausted, frantically tugged away at each other. Chesterman, dripping with sweat, edged victory.

Judo is Japanese for "the gentle way". Unlike karate or the kwon do, it does not involve kicking or striking. The art of the sport comes from devising ways to grab and throw the opponent, and it has been described as "physical chess".

Taylor said: "Judo is a form of self-defence. We tell all the boys that they should only use it outside the gym as a last resort. We hope that it builds up a quiet confidence but does not create a sense of invincibility that might get boys into trouble."

"It has picked up in popularity in Britain since boxing was phased out in schools in the 60s. I think this is because it offers an alternative channel for aggression."

Barracough, who hopes one day to make the British Olympic squad, said: "I wish there was still boxing in schools but I think that judo is enjoyable in its own way. I just love to hear the judge shout 'Ippon' when I've made a winning throw."

Results, page 32

Logan's run sets Stirling on way to title

Stirling County 13
Boroughmuir 9

By MARK SOUSTER

SO STIRLING County, to their credit, made sure of the silver. They have been the best side in Scotland this season, consistent, resourceful and skilful as the occasion demanded. They fully deserve their first McEwan's League title.

Stirling relish the label of outsiders. They are the first club to have broken the Borders-Edinburgh stranglehold in more than a 100 years and on Saturday displayed dogged determination against Boroughmuir.

They were grateful to West of Scotland, whose surprise victory over Watsonians, thanks to Dave Barrett's last minute dropped goal, ensured that celebrations could begin. "This is what fairy tales are made of," Stewart Hamilton, 39, the Stirling captain, said. "It took me at least two hours to realise the full extent of our achievement. We weren't at our best but we showed all the qualities which have carried us through so much adversity on the road up the ladder." Having given the club 20 years service, he can recall the days when it was in the seventh division.

While Hamilton represents the past, Kenny Logan is the future. The 22-year-old Scotland wing relishes the big occasion and on Saturday he was in his element in a nervy match that had no pattern or rhythm. It was certainly no triumphant procession to the title.

For much of the time Boroughmuir were in charge, territorially at least. With two minutes remaining of the first half it was 6-6. Logan having kicked both Stirling's penalty goals. Another prodigious effort from inside his own half had fallen just short. It was reminiscent of Gavin Hastings in Paris a week earlier and least weight to the argument that he is Hastings's natural successor at full back in the Scotland side.

Logan, oozing confidence, then produced a moment of which even the master would have been proud. Collecting the ball deep in his own half, he carved his way through the visitors' defence, beating three tackles before creating space for Jim Brough. The No 8 slipped the ball out to Gus Turner for the only try of the match.

Logan landed the conversion from wide out, then he and Stirling had to resist Boroughmuir for most of the second half. Time and again they poured forward, time and again Stirling drove them back and, in the process, repeatedly stole the ball. Turner saved the day for Stirling with some fine back-kicking, before Rasson added a third penalty. But he then missed two more as the tension mounted.

SCORERS: Stirling County: Try: Turner; Conversion: Logan; Penalty goals: Logan, G. Boroughmuir: Penalty goals: Eason (3).
STIRLING COUNTY: C. Sengler, A. Turner, N. Kennedy, M. McGonigle, K. Logan, M. McCann, K. Harper, D. Watt, K. McKenna, G. Robertson, G. Flockhart, J. Hamilton, M. Maxwell, B. Ireland, D. Stark, S. Green, D. Laird, B. Miller, S. Eason, A. Night, G. Wilson, N. Dixon, P. Wright, G. Eason, C. James, P. Jennings, G. Drummond, S. Reid.

Misfortune strikes at Bell again

JONATHAN BELL, the young wing whose thigh injury caused him to withdraw from Ireland's opening five nations' championship match, against England last month, has been forced out of international rugby again (David Hands writes). Bell, 21, strained an Achilles tendon when the Irish squad trained on Saturday and will miss the game against France at Lansdowne Road next Saturday.

His place will go, as against England, to Niall Woods, of Blackrock College. Nick Poplewell, the Wasps prop who has bruised knee ligaments, and Keith Wood, the replacement hooker (stomach disorder), could not train but both are expected to be fit.

The elevation of Woods brings Maurice Field to the replacements and his place in the Combined Irish Provinces XV to play Northern Transvaal on Friday goes to Laurence Boyle, the Harlequins centre, with Niall Malone, of Leicester, joining the bench. The South African province opened a six-match tour by beating Leicester 27-17 at Donnybrook, thanks to two late tries.

□ Brendan Fanning is the Irish rugby correspondent for The Sunday Times

Irish eyes look away from background of confusion

By BRENDAN FANNING

THE varying degrees of enthusiasm shown by Ireland's travelling rugby supporters should never be seen as the litmus test of the country's chances in international competition. However, when some of them are willing to travel thousands of miles to the World Cup, and not include Ireland in their itinerary, it is time to wonder at the cause.

The opinion of every soul bound from these shores for South Africa in May has not of course been canvassed but to be told by a friend that his trip was organised and that Ireland's pool matches were no more than a "possibility" was disconcerting. To put it simply, my friend's attitude was that he was part of a group investing more than £3,000 in a holiday and they were not going to risk it by slavishly following Ireland.

There'll be lots of other matches worth watching," he added — and this from a man who regularly attends club rugby, not some five nations' socialite who slips on his sheepskin coat come January and puts it away when the championship is over. Perhaps he is one of a misguided minority. Then again, maybe the depth of his apathy reflects a greater malaise.

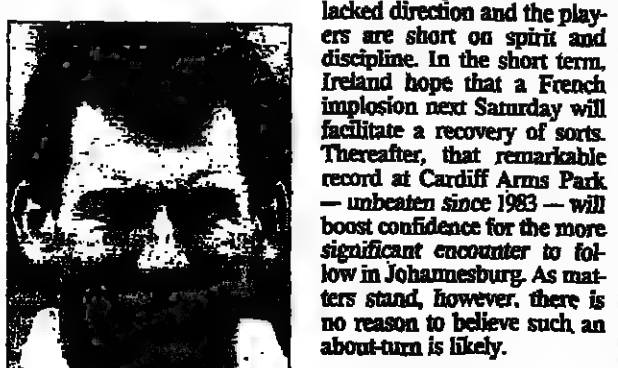
As the World Cup edges closer, the message from Ireland is not one of hope. The idea that the five nations' championship would see a steady improvement in the side has already gone seriously askew. Outgunned against England — no shame in that — it was the sheer confusion when they fell behind against Scotland that was most wor-



ing. If you are to subscribe to the reasonable-enough theory that with the third championship match — against France at Lansdowne Road next weekend — comes the great Irish awakening, then in the second outing there should have been some sign of an emergence from slumber.

To achieve continuity on the pitch, however, it helps to have continuity off it. So it is instructive to compare the Irish situation with that of Wales, their chief rivals in pool C of the World Cup. Wales seem to have a clear idea of the XV they want on the field, though hampered by injury, the arrival of Derwyn and the restoration of Robert have made the Jones boys the last pieces in the jigsaw.

Not so with Ireland. The chief playmaker, Eric



Elwood, reinstated amid series of unsettling changes

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

You hear the following auction:

S	W	N	E
1♠	Pass	1♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

How many hearts do you think South will have? When this bidding sequence occurred in the Pairs competition at the Mainz International Bridge Festival last week, the hand was as shown below. West led a spade to the jack and king, and the declarer played a diamond to the king and a diamond back to the jack. What should West do?

South dealer. Love all. Match pointed Pairs

♠A953	♠J4
♥Q872	♥K1085
♦K8	♦1062
♣864	♣QJ8
♠10875	♠AKQ2
♥105	♥AKQ2
♦Q85	♦AKQ2
♠1073	♠AKQ2

Contract: 3NT by South. Lead: six of spades

In this type of auction the declarer will frequently have a singleton heart partner's suit. Here he is marked with nine cards in the minors, and is quite likely to hold three spades. If the declarer has a doubleton heart, he is likely to rebid in No-Trump over the One Heart response without bothering to introduce a second suit.

West, Anne Flockhart, took this into account and switched to the jack of hearts. The declarer played low, and on after a heart continuation the defence came to five heart tricks, to beat the contract by two. Her partner, John Horsley, swore blind that if the declarer had covered the jack of hearts with the queen he would have continued with a low heart to his partner's nine — he was also listening to the bidding.

By Philip Howard

INGRAVESCENT

- A lemon drink
- A mortuary smell
- Growing worse
- A parasitic plant

PROSOPOGRAPHY

- A study of persons
- An Identikit portrait
- Neonative rainforest

CICURATE

- A Macedonian cavalry squadron
- A pot rack
- The back of the hand

OPISITHENAR

- A Macedonian cavalry squadron
- A pot rack
- The back of the hand

Answers on page 41

KEENE on CHESS

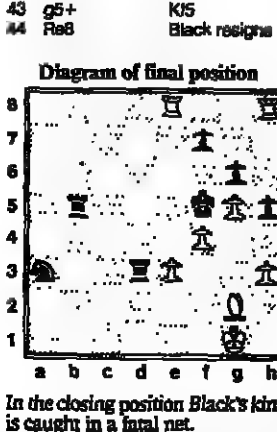
By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Veterans lead

The veteran grandmasters Boris Gulko and Viktor Korchnoi continue to head the standings in the Pan Pacific International chess tournament. In round four Gulko defeated Maurice Ashley while Korchnoi won against Zsofia Polgar. Gulko now has 3.5 points while Korchnoi has 3. London's John Nunn has 2.5 points after his third draw. Here, Gulko outplays American chess prodigy Josh Waitkin.

White: Boris Gulko
Black: Josh Waitkin
Pan Pacific, San Francisco, February 1995

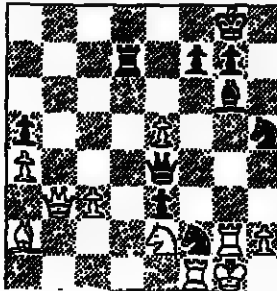
1 c4	♠5
2 Nc3	♠6
3 Nf3	♠7
4 g3	♠8
5 cxd5	♠9
6 Bg2	♠10
7 0-0	♠11
8 b4	♠12
9 b3	♠13
10 d3	♠14
11 Bc2	♠15
12 Nf3	♠16
13 Re1	♠17
14 g4	♠18
15 Nf4	♠19
16 Ne4	♠20
17 Qc2	♠21
18 e3	♠22
19 txe5	♠23



In the closing position Black's king is caught in a fatal net.

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Hjartarson - Georgadze, Tilburg 1993. Although Black is suffering from a small material disadvantage, the fact that his pieces are swarming around the white king is more than enough compensation. How did he now conclude the game?



Solution on page 41

هكذا من الأصل

Sale's drive sufficient to realise profit in loss



Turner: visionary coach

ONCE the disappointment etched in Sale faces has worn off, they will realise that the Pilkington Cup quarter-final defeat by Leicester on Saturday was, perhaps, the end of the beginning. They may have known it anyway: in what has been a season of substantial advance they proved to any doubters that they can live alongside the best in the country and, if they are sensible, will build on the knowledge.

To do that they should ignore much of the nonsense to be heard in the immediate aftermath of what may have been an exciting cup-tie but was, in fact, indifferently played by both teams. Televised criticism of the referee, Chris Rees, spill over into public abuse by Steve Smith, the former Sale and England scrum half, which did neither Smith nor the game any credit.

Sale have too much going for them to dwell on such words though the game's outcome reflects the

sense of frustration northern clubs have felt for many years. When push comes to shove, only one team from the division has made it all the way — Gosforth, in the mid-Seventies, whose coach when they first won the knockout competition was a lanky former lock called Jack Rowell.

Northern clubs feel, rightly or wrongly, that they exist on the fringe of the Rugby Football Union's borders and are treated as such. Orrell, in the heart of rugby league country, have fought such perceived attitudes for a generation; now Sale are well placed to represent the huge Manchester urban area in the top flight — they have put together a strong, competitive team directed by one of the most visionary heads in the country, Paul Turner. If Turner, 36, can fight off injury and hang on for another season there is no reason why his colleagues cannot take Sale into a new era of success at

David Hands finds Leicester's nerve unshaken as they secure a 14-12 win in the Pilkington Cup

a time when the club's administrators have far-sighted plans for relocation and development.

Turner has complained that northern players have been overlooked for representative honours this season. But that has been part of the club's strength: individuals have not been distracted, they have focused on the league and cup demands to stand fifth in the former and in the last eight of the latter. Dean Richards, the Leicester captain, never a man to make excuses, cites the problems of successful teams whose optimum XV is together so seldom at this time of year.

The Tigers could not have complained if their roar had been stilled at Heywood Road rather than reaching their fourth successive

semi-final draw (to be made at Twickenham today). Their lineup was blunted by the outstanding Baldwin, their back row nullified by Vyvyan and their back three tormented by Turner's kicking. Only in the scrum, where they were marginally outweighed, did they have a clear advantage and it was completely appropriate that the winning score came from that area.

They also had the composure that typifies England these days. Richards decided what had to be done, that the game had to be tighter, that possession had to be secured. That the final minute of time was ticking away when Liley kicked the winning goal mattered not, and even then Turner had the chance to

smash the verdict back when an early tackle gave him a kick at goal from 45 metres. He has kicked them from that range before; this time he did not.

But Turner's main grievance was the circumstances preceding the final series of scrums in the Sale 22, when he felt a penalty, or at least a scrum, should have gone Sale's way. In fact, television suggests that the referee was right in his judgment of the first knock-on, by a Sale hand; indeed Rees, found to be at fault by some for penalising the curved throwing-in of both hookers, had a better game — playing advantage particularly well at times — than his critics allowed.

As the clock wound down, the scrum was reset five times as Leicester, a point behind, edged forward, trying to create room for the out-of-sorts Harris to drop a goal. Finally, their reward for being able to exert scrum pressure when

ever they chose was a penalty for a collapsed front row, nervously kicked by Liley. The full back ended with all Leicester's points, including the try, after a scoreless and curiously inhibited first half, which made the difference.

Turner's goalkeeping, three penalties and a dropped goal, kept Sale noses ahead for 30 minutes in the second half but at no stage did they demonstrate the ambition that has made them, in many ways, the most talked-about club of the season. As they are about to find, the higher you rise, the more difficult it becomes to play the game that has taken you there.

SCORES: Sale: Penalty goals: Turner (2). Dropped goal: Turner. Leicester: Try: Liley. Penalty goals: Liley (3). SALE: J. Mullins, M. Appleton, J. Bevan, G. Shires, C. Vines, P. Turner, C. Sangerman, S. G. Smith, A. Smith, D. Edwards, J. Fowler, D. Baldwin, N. Adams, C. Vyvyan. LEICESTER: J. Liley, S. Hadeney, D. Edwards, S. Pinner, T. Underwood, J. Harris, A. Kaidonov, G. Rowlands, R. Cockfield, D. Galt, J. Wells, M. Johnson, M. Poole, R. Black, D. Richards. Referee: C. Rees (London).

Hall happy as Bath march on at the double

Bath 26
Northampton 6

BY BRYAN STILES

MR GRUMPY had a smile on his face — and he would have been even happier if referees were allowed to have a sunnier disposition, too. John Hall, the Bath captain, is renowned for his frowns and his grumbles as he champions Bath's cause on and off the field, but on Saturday he was determined to wear a smile after this stodgy Pilkington Cup quarter-final victory.

The win had carried him a step nearer repeating the league and cup double, to which he led his team last season, and it merited a celebratory grin, but he was far from happy with referees. Not that he had any complaints about the referee on Saturday, apart from that every time he looked up from the bottom of a muddy maul Steve Lander seemed to be pointing an accusing finger at his players and awarding a penalty to the opposition.

No, his plea was that referees should be more relaxed in their policing of the game and have a rapport with the players, like Clive Norling, the retired Welsh referee, used to enjoy.

Hall claimed that referees were put under too much scrutiny in club games and, as a result, did not let games flow, whereas when they were in charge of international games they gave players more latitude. He would prefer them to be "more flexible" in their approach and, as a former international and the respected captain of one of the leading clubs in English rugby, he deserves a hearing.

Hall is retiring at the end of the season and feels it would be a fitting finale to his career to lead Bath to yet another double. They lead the Courage League table by three points but were far below their best on Saturday in a game that Richard Hill, their former captain, described as "dreadful". Hall put their poor showing down to rustiness among players who had not played together in that combination for some time. Numerous moves broke down because players blundered into each other in midfield or criss-crossed and gave away penalties for obstruction. Then there was the Cat phenomenon. He is playing better for England than he is for Bath this season.

But Northampton deserve credit for their defence and for dominating the lineout through Bayfield, Rodder and Phillips. Northampton rarely threatened the Bath line, however, and, lying bottom of the first division table, must look forward to the rest of the season with some trepidation.

Grayson, their goal kicker, had a nightmare of a game, in contrast to Callard, who found the target with all of his six attempts. Penalty goals left the score at 9-3 at the interval, with Callard kicking another before Philip de Glanville danced through a packed defence to score a try. Ben Clarke rounded off a protracted move to collect a second try in the dying stages.

Although the referee showed yellow cards to Ubogu, Hynes and Haag, it was far from a dirty game.

SCORES: Bath: Try: Grayson. Conversion: Callard (2). Penalty goals: Callard (4). Northampton: Penalty goals: Grayson (2).

BATH: J. Callard, A. Smith, P. G. Grayson, J. Gaskell, J. Slaughter, M. Carr, M. O'Brien, D. Hill, G. Adams, V. Ubogu, J. Hall, M. Haag, T. Rodder, S. O'Brien, A. Clarke. O'Brien replaced by S. Johnson. Northampton: M. Bayfield, R. Mangan, F. Packer, M. Allen, C. Mear, K. Grayson, M. Dawson, M. Hynes, A. Clarke, M. Lewis, T. Rodder, J. Phillips, M. Bayfield, J. Cassell, G. Smith. Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool).



Maunder, the Exeter captain, gets the ball away to his threequarters during their Pilkington Cup quarter-final against Wasps at the County Ground. Photograph: Tim Cuff

Brave Exeter make vain attempt to bridge gap

HALF an hour after this game ended, the area behind the main stand was as crowded as if it were a country fair. A real buzz of conversation rose from this al fresco gathering just as, from time to time throughout the game, a deep and threatening roar had arisen from around the ground: "Come on Exe."

The two rival sets of supporters were reliving what they had just seen — a hard, honest cup-tie in which Wasps had won the prize of a place in the semi-finals of the Pilkington Cup with a 31-0 victory and Exeter had won the hearts and minds of those who watched. "We used to play a few fixtures down here and always had a great time," Rob Smith, the Wasps coach, explained. "A few of the boys

are saying that we should start coming down here again."

There was never any doubt that Wasps would win but never a moment when they could let up. On this evidence it is hard to believe that Exeter prop up the third division of the Courage Clubs Championship with their 11 games having yielded only five points from two victories and a draw. Can that Exeter be the same one that prevented Wasps from scoring for the last dozen minutes of this match?

Some spectators had not been to the County Ground since Devon played the South African Barbarians in 1979 in front of 75 police and 2,500 spectators. Before that game anti-apartheid protesters



John Hopkins sees Wasps thrive in unfamiliar surroundings and progress smoothly to the last four

threatened to let rabbits run onto the pitch during the match, which brought the reply from a four home unions' tour official: "If they release rabbits, we'll release ferrets."

After penetrating the maze of housing in which this ground is hidden, one was reminded of the fervour that rugby generates in Devon and Cornwall. It is fierce in its intensity (no half measures down here) and expressed by foot-stamping and a quick, knowledgeable outburst of applause or derision. "You

can jump, Norm," an Exeter voice shouted at Hadley, Wasps' man mountain of a second-row. "They love their rugby down here." Andy Maunder, the Exeter captain, said.

At that moment, Maunder was being lionised by television after his part in this stirring performance. He saved one try and nearly scored another.

Caked from head to foot in mud, he appeared almost as happy as if his team had won. "Wasps are very good at moving the ball before con-

tact," he said excitedly. "And at choosing the angles they run at. They keep on changing them. That was what struck us most."

The pitch resembled a quagmire, which is not surprising, considering that 40 tons of sand had been dumped on it so that the match could go ahead. One player looked at the barren, sandy waste and said: "I've seen more grass in a cigarette."

Exeter played above themselves, Wasps were true to themselves, running the ball as always. Their handling was nifty, players again and again turning to find a man to pass to in a way that belied the conditions underfoot. Wasps emphasised their back row, as England do, and there is no

surprise in this, given its size and strength.

The difference between Exeter and Wasps was minuscule in terms of endeavour and commitment but massive in avoirdupois and in inches. Wasps had big forwards who were able to dominate the lineout and big backs who could run fast. Wasps play muscular rugby and, in these days of the running game, it is politically correct, too. It wins games and it wins friends.

SCORES: Wasps: Try: Utton, P. Hopley, Hunter, Turner (2). Conversion: Smith (5). EXETER: S. Doyle, A. Turner, J. Thomas, J. Tuckings, S. Dwyer, A. Green, A. Maunder, J. Galt, A. Brockley, T. Harris, M. Scudliffe, M. Langley, R. Baker, P. Westgate, J. Balchford. WASPS: J. Utton, P. Hopley, D. Hopley, G. Chalk, S. Hunter, C. Bradwell, S. Eades, D. Malloy, P. Delaney, J. Dunston, L. Delagado, N. Hadley, M. Greenwood, C. Wilkins, D. Pryn. Referee: A. Spradford (Somerset).

Newport's troubles mount

Swansea 10
Newport 9

BY GERALD DAVIES

HARDLY anything of note happened at St Helen's until two minutes from the end. Even then it was not of the kind the crowd wanted to see nor the clubs wish to read about. While Newport were mounting a final assault on the Swansea line and events were moving infield, drawing everyone's attention, Shane McIntosh and Gareth Rees were pursuing their own private squabble.

Only the touch judge saw properly what was happening and, in reporting what went on — something McIntosh had done with his knee, to which Rees responded with his fist — to the referee, the two players were dismissed from the field.

The visitors might have felt more aggrieved at this decision than their opponents because Newport have been struggling for most of the season to stay away from the relegation zone and will now lose what they consider to be their most influential player.

Only one point separated the teams but for all the difference it makes at the bottom of the first division, there might as well have been a vast deficit, like those that Aberllynny and Pontypool suffered over the weekend. The dogfight at the bottom should include Duvant, too. In one form or another, all four have matches against each other in the remaining days of the season. In these circumstances, the Canadian stand-off half is going to be sorely missed.

After several moments of penitence in the match, a sending-off was on the cards. That it came so late was a surprise. It caused wonder, too, that it seemed the least offensive incident of the day.

Newport, with Moseley and Voyle doing well at the lineout, began in spirited mood, with some good running and interpassing between half-back and back row. But this came to naught and they notched up their six first-half points through two penalties by Rees. As Swansea had the use of the wind in the second half, they were not enough.

A sweeping counter-attacking run by Harris nearly brought Swansea a try after five minutes. Had he dived he would have got there but, remaining upright, he was bundled into the corner flag. It was the most memorable piece of rugby all afternoon.

Davies tried something similar on the other wing but in kicking ahead he was charged late and Williams kicked the penalty. Williams, always looking for the break, then established a position close to the visitors' line. Pressure from Appleyard and the rest of his forwards resulted in a try for Reynolds in the 57th minute.

Thereafter the match was riddled with errors. The only other score came from a penalty by Rees, indicating how valuable he is and how he will be missed by Newport in the weeks to come.

SCORES: Swansea: Try: Reynolds. Conversion: Williams. Penalty goals: Williams. Newport: Penalty goals: G. Rees (2). SWANSEA: D. Weatherley, A. Harris, S. McIntosh, R. Boocock, S. Davies, A. Williams, R. Jones, A. Colclough, M. Thomas, R. Shaw, T. Reynolds, M. Evans, P. Arnold, R. Appleyard, S. Davies. Arnold replaced by R. Llanfyllter (Gwent).

NEWPORT: D. Hughes, Llanfyllter, S. Enoch, M. Voyle, R. Rees, G. Rees, M. Rodrick, D. Thomas, P. Prescott, S. Cronk, B. Adams, K. Macleod, M. Voyle, G. Gray, R. Goodby. Hughes replaced by D. Rees. Enoch replaced by A. Carter (SO). Prescott temporarily replaced by P. Cotton (H). Referee: J. Lewis (Preston).

Blackheath settle a score

Blackheath 24
Harrogate 0

BY BARRY TROWBRIDGE

DANNY VAUGHAN, the Blackheath coach, was featured in the programme for this Courage Clubs Championship third division match as the man for whom an "impossible dream" had come true. For the first time since the start of the season, he was able to field a full, first-choice, first team.

Penning the piece, Matt Griffiths, the right wing in Vaughan's vaunted vigilantes, then detailed, with reference to each player, why life was looking up at the Rectory Field, and concluded by suggesting that the team was back to something like its best in time to make a push for the championship. "Today's game [against a Harrogate side a place below Blackheath in the table] promises to answer a lot of questions," he wrote.

Opposite, was a brief match report on Blackheath's previous league match, against Rosslyn Park only two weeks before, which apparently had been a dour affair decided, in

The Club's favour, on penalty goals, and one in which any player with double figures on his back might just as well have spent the second half in the bar. Hardly the stuff of champions — but who was to be believed?

When a hailstorm greeted the players on Saturday, the smart money was heavily on the latter. As Harrogate will testify, though, Griffiths had missed hardly a thing. Blackheath really are approaching their best, and with this overwhelming victory they went two points clear at the top as a result.

Even when a welter of questionable refereeing decisions went against them, the Blackheath players seemed far less agitated than their supporters, and the fact that the first memorable move by the Harrogate backs came after an hour, and was not repeated, was testament to their superiority.

Only in orthodox lineouts did Harrogate come anywhere near to matching Blackheath's expertise, but they had no match for Harris or Walton at the tail and were at a loss to deal with the pace and stamina of the front row of

Shadbolt, Ridgway — both of whom battered their way on to the scoresheet — and Stewart, either on the peel or in the loose.

Demonstrating how much easier life is behind a rampant pack, Friday, easily the man of the match, was imperious with darting breaks that constantly breached the gain line, and with Smith, MacIntyre and Burns carving holes through the centre, it is a wonder that Blackheath did not score more tries.

With matches at Otley and at home to Bedford — the other clubs vying for the two promotion spots — next on Blackheath's agenda, their destiny is in their own hands. The thought of, perhaps, Northampton or Harlequins at the Rectory Field next season should be incentive enough ... or is that just a coach's impossible dream?

SCORES: Blackheath: Try: Shadbolt. Conversion: Ridgway. Harrogate: None. (3) Penalty goal: Howard. BLACKHEATH: S. Burns, M. Griffiths, J. MacIntyre, P. Smith, M. Harris, S. Howard, M. Fricker, P. Shadbolt, C. Ridgway, M. Stewart, D. Walton, G. Furness, A. Coddling, T. Booth, M. Harris. HARROGATE: G. Alder, P. Woodley, C. Reed, A. Pearson, R. Bell, S. Jones, G. Eastley, S. Girdell, R. Whaley, D. Hall, A. Pinder, P. Taylor, R. Castellan, R. Marston, J. Hopkinson. Captain replaced by M. Rafter (Gwent). Referee: W. Metcalf (East Midlands).

Harlequins display liking for economy class again

Harlequins 13
Wakefield 8

BY PETER BILLS

SOME shrewd old heads, doubtless mindful of history, piloted Harlequins into their seventh Pilkington Cup semi-final in eight years with an economy of performance that proved to be pinpoint in its accuracy. The London club is a past master at gauging the precise level of performance required to extend its cup traditions and, again, it did just enough.

Nobody will understand better than Harlequins that an altogether superior performance will be required against any of the remaining semi-finalists five weeks from now. Lying on their cake there most definitely was not, and, if Wakefield had possessed greater quality and conviction behind the scrum, they could have created an upset.

In the final minute, with Wakefield one converted try short of glory, Petyt, the stand-off half, made a long break downfield and the Harlequins defence was carved open. But, not for the first time, a promising Yorkshire movement came to naught because of poor passing and vision.

So the London side negotiated another hurdle in a thoroughly difficult season. Already without their England loose-head prop, Leonard, Harlequins lost their tight-head, Mullins, on the morning of the match, forcing Desmond to play his first game in the position for two years. The stand-in did well to survive but the disruption to their scrumgame was evident.

Since Dick Best's return to the club as director of rugby

Full league and cup results Page 32

on December 1, Harlequins have not seen one team selected on a Tuesday evening appear on the field on the Saturday. "I feel like the school headmaster — I've heard every excuse in the book," Best said.

The first division side went behind to Jackson's fifth-minute penalty and trailed until the sixth minute of first-half injury time when Sheasby seized Challinor's high kick and, after play had been switched, Greenwood scored in the left corner.

The mistakes of the first half continued unimpaired after half-time. Greenwood's dropped goal, followed by Challinor's try after heavy pressure near the Wakefield line, persuaded Harlequins 13-3 was enough. It nearly was not. Yates burst into their 22 and, from the industrious Scully's tapped free kick, Thompson scored in the corner. Alarm bells rang when Petyt ran at them near the finish but Harlequins held out.

Wakefield lost because they lacked the dynamism of Harlequins' breakaways and never had sufficient poise in possession. For all the urgings of their supporters, they achieved little with a surprising amount of ball. Their lack of invention behind the scrum meant that expectation was never realised.

SCORES: Harlequins: Try: Greenwood. Conversion: Thompson. Wakefield: Try: Thompson. Penalty goal: Jackson. HARLEQUINS: W. Greenwood, C. Wright, W. Carling, G. Thompson, C. Henderson, P. Challinor, R. Mitchell, S. Brown, B. Moore, I. Desmond, M. Puckett, A. Snow, P. Thatcher, R. Jenkins, C. Sheasby. Russell replaced by M. Peppers (Worcester). WAKEFIELD: M. Jackson, P. White, P. Maynard, A. Miskell, R. Thompson, R. Petyt, D. Scully, R. Latham, T. Gannet, R. Szabo, N. Green, S. Crotty, P. Stewart, V. Yates, M. Sweeney. Referee: E. Morton (Glasgow).

Women's basketball has a low profile and a cashflow problem, but it may replace netball at school, says Alyson Rudd

You don't have to be six foot to play — but it helps

For a sport with lofty ambitions, it did not bode well. The Dr Martens Northampton 16ers were about to face the Sheffield Star Hatters in the semi-final of the Women's National Cup. On the mezzanine above the stadium, bridesmaids and pageboys chased each other as the music from a wedding reception thumped away. The audience for the basketball looked like an extension of the marriage celebrations. Kids with drum kits and biggles made an incessant din and children without an instrument just shrieked.

It was, however, a misleading picture of chaos. The match was enthralling, pacy and fiercely contested and the spectators, even the youngsters, were appreciative. At half-time everyone in the audience left their seats to practise their shooting skills and then obediently left the court at the restart, more impressed than ever at the players' accuracy.

The English Basketball Association (EBA) wants the sport to replace netball in schools and aims to make basketball the top indoor sport over the next five years.

Men's basketball is, not surprisingly, more high profile, something women accept and try to use to their advantage. Most key fixtures are played in tandem with the men's equivalent, which has resulted in more TV and satellite coverage of the women's game.

Alexandra Congreve, an England player, earns more than £50,000 a year, but she plays in Italy. Such is the cash gap between the men's and women's game that the England women's team could not even afford to enter the European championship two years ago.

Nevertheless, women's basketball is growing, and attempting to improve its infrastructure so that interested girls and women will find it easier to track down a club in their area. Teacher training colleges are being targeted so that PE staff will want the game played in schools.

Dawn Hodge, women's officer at the EBA, says most women think they have to be six foot to play, when in fact most players are of average height. "The slam dunk (forcing the ball down through the net) does not exist in the women's game," she says.

Netball skills are transferable but basketball is more demanding. "You need speed and stamina, and dribbling has to be taught — you have to move without looking at the ball," Hodge says.

Jenny Collins, the women's director for basketball, says:

SPORT FOR ALL

"There is no comparison between basketball and netball. There is no restriction of court space, everyone can shoot and basketball is more physical. In netball you need seven players, you can play basketball with any number."

One of the stars of the Sheffield Star Hatters is the England player, Chris Castle, a six-foot local government research development officer. Castle switched from netball aged 16 under the guidance of a Canadian PE teacher. "It's an up-tempo game with a lot of diversity and you can play at any level," she says.

Castle stresses that as the game takes up all her leisure time it is important to be part of a team where there is strong camaraderie and the men accept the women as part of the club.

However, when it comes to taking a penalty shot, no amount of camaraderie can help. It is you facing the basket alone, trying to shut out the whistles of the crowd. Castle explains that such pressure is simulated at training by team mates having to go on runs if you miss a basket, but nothing can really prepare a player for the crunch moment.

The Hatters' coach is Betty Codona, who played in the first organised women's game in 1965. The women's game has "moved on a million years in terms of tactics," she says. "For the first ten or 15 years I went to just about any coaching clinic I could get to."

Her dedication has paid off and the Hatters, having defeated the 76ers, defend their title on March 5 at the Sheffield Arena.

□ Anyone interested in playing women's basketball or in introducing it at school should contact Dawn Hodge at the EBA (0113 2361166).

□ There are 300 registered women's clubs and most men's clubs have non-registered women's teams.

□ Tickets for the cup final on March 5 are available from the Sheffield Arena box office on 0114 2565656.



The Sheffield Star Hatters, pictured here playing against London Heat, are set to defend their title in the Women's National Cup on March 5 at the Sheffield Arena

Thousands take the plunge

Charity may seem even closer to home now that the pound coin is being used with a flick of the thumb to achieve personal goals. John Robinson, from Derby, needed to lose several pounds last year. The Swimathon helped him to do just that, and charities were rewarded with the £10,000 he raised.

This year, Greg Downing, a personal trainer from London, lead a fast lane of competitive swimmers and triathletes, most are aquatic joggers out to achieve personal goals. John Robinson, from Derby, needed to lose several pounds last year. The Swimathon helped him to do just that, and charities were rewarded with the £10,000 he raised.

Swimmers are graded according to ability and, while the likes of Sarah Hardcastle, an Olympic medal winner,

will wear a machine to monitor the number of times his heartbeat registers during the 5,000 metres. But the award for bravery goes to Anna Seymour, 15, of Cornwall, who intends to go the distance on butterfly.

Three charities will share 85 per cent of the proceeds this year: the British Heart Foundation, the British Lung Foundation and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. The remainder will go to the British Sports Association for the Disabled, the British Paralympic Association and the UK Sports Association for the Mentally Handicapped.

CRAIG LORD

Call the Swimathon Hotline (0171-319 9595) for information.



A record 43,000 people entered last year's Swimathon

Win tickets to see England v West Indies



England's Test stars are preparing for a demanding ten months of cricket including the Cornhill Insurance Test Series against the West Indies, followed by a tour to South Africa this winter and the 1996 World Cup in Asia.

Today *The Times* offers three readers the chance to each win a pair of tickets to the third day of any of the six Test matches against the West Indies this summer. Further prizes of copies of *The Official 1995 Tour Guide*, which will be available in May, will go to ten runners-up.

For your chance to see our batsmen and bowlers take on the might of Courtney Walsh and Brian Lara send your answers to the three questions, right, on a postcard to *The Times* Test Match Competition, PO Box 6886, London, E2 8SP. The winners will be selected at random from all correct entries received by the closing date of March 10. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

Our three first-prize winners may choose to attend the third day's play at any one of the following Cornhill Insurance Test matches:

Headingley June 8 to June 12; Lord's June 22 to 26; Edgbaston July 6 to 11; Old Trafford July 27 to 31; Trent Bridge August 10 to 14; Foster's Oval August 24 to 28.

To book tickets for any of these matches (excluding Lord's) call the 24-hour Test Match ticket hotline on 0171 413 1413.

QUESTIONS

1. In which year did England last beat the West Indies in a Test series?
2. Who hit the winning runs when England last beat the West Indies in a Test match in England?
3. When was the last West Indies tour to England?

GUIDE TO THE WEEK'S MAIN FIXTURES	
TODAY	TOMORROW
FOOTBALL Kick-off 7.30 unless stated FA CUP: Second round replays: Stevenage v Yeovil (7.45). LEAGUE: Premier division: Wolves v Coventry; Norwich v Derby; Ipswich v Reading; Millwall v Luton (7.15). Second division: Barnet v Exeter; Grimsby v Gillingham; Shrewsbury v Walsley; Wrexham v Colwyn Bay (7.45). Third division: Carlisle v York; Colchester v Darlington; Exeter v Maidstone; Gillingham v Walsley; Hereford v Farnham; Lincoln v Hartlepool; Preston v Doncaster; Rochdale v Scarborough; Wigan v Southport (7.45). Fourth division: Aldershot v Boreham Wood; Boreham Wood v Boreham Wood; Boreham Wood v Boreham Wood; Boreham Wood v Boreham Wood (7.45).	FOOTBALL Kick-off 7.30 unless stated FA CUP: Quarter-finals, first leg: Brighton v Luton (7.15). Second division: Barnet v Exeter; Grimsby v Gillingham; Shrewsbury v Walsley; Wrexham v Colwyn Bay (7.45). Third division: Carlisle v York; Colchester v Darlington; Exeter v Maidstone; Gillingham v Walsley; Hereford v Farnham; Lincoln v Hartlepool; Preston v Doncaster; Rochdale v Scarborough; Wigan v Southport (7.45). Fourth division: Aldershot v Boreham Wood; Boreham Wood v Boreham Wood; Boreham Wood v Boreham Wood; Boreham Wood v Boreham Wood (7.45).
OTHER SPORT BILLY'S SCOTCH LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). Second division: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). Third division: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). Fourth division: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). FIFTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). SIXTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). SEVENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). EIGHTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). NINTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). TENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45).	OTHER SPORT BILLY'S SCOTCH LEAGUE: Premier division: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). Second division: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). Third division: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). Fourth division: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). FIFTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). SIXTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). SEVENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). EIGHTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). NINTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45). TENTH DIVISION: Dundee v Aberdeen (7.45).

Law Report February 27 1995 Privy Council

Compensation for losses in anticipation of seizure of land

Director of Buildings and Lands v Shun Fung Ironworks Ltd

Before Lord Keith of Kinkaid, Lord Mustill, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead

[Judgment February 20]

A claimant whose land in Hong Kong was resumed by the Crown was entitled to compensation for losses occurring before resumption provided they arose in anticipation of resumption and because of the threat thereof and they were not too remote or losses which a reasonable person would have avoided.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council held in an appeal by the Director of Buildings and Lands, and by a majority (Lord Mustill and Lord Slynn dissenting) allowing in part the cross-appeal by Shun Fung Ironworks Ltd, from the judgment of the Court of Appeal of Hong Kong when it awarded compensation to Shun Fung of HK\$131 million by the Lands Tribunal in respect of the resumption of Shun Fung's land by the Crown was set aside and an award of \$519 million was substituted.

Section 10 of the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance provides: "The Tribunal shall determine the amount of compensation (if any) payable in respect of a claim... on the basis of the loss or damage suffered by the claimant due to the resumption of the land specified in the claim."

"(2) The Tribunal shall determine the compensation (if any) payable under subsection (1) on the basis of... (a) the amount of loss or damage to a business conducted by the claimant at the date of resumption on the land resumed... due to the removal of the business from that land... as a result of the resumption."

Mr Michael Barnes, QC and Mr Robert Bailey, QC for the Director; Mr Lionel Read, QC and Mr Simon Pickles for Shun Fung.

LORD NICHOLLS, delivering the majority judgment, said that Shun Fung carried on a business at Junk Bay in Hong Kong. In November 1981, Shun Fung received notification that the government intended to develop Junk Bay as a new town and the company

would have to give up its site. The formal steps were taken after a protracted period.

On October 15, 1985, the Governor made an order under the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance that the site was required for a public purpose, and July 30, 1986, was fixed as the date of resumption. Shun Fung was unable to obtain another suitable site before that date, and so it had to close down its business. It finally quit Junk Bay in January 1987.

The principal dispute concerned the basis on which compensation should be paid for the loss sustained by Shun Fung in respect of its business. The primary claim was that its business loss was not to be measured simply by valuing the business as at the date of resumption in 1986, the so-called "extinguishment" basis for assessing compensation, and the proper measure was the cost of moving to a new site at Shunde in China, which it had found in 1987, and resuming its interrupted business there, the so-called "relocation" basis.

The Lands Tribunal held that the extinguishment basis was the correct basis, whereas the Court of Appeal held that compensation ought to be assessed on the relocation basis and increased the award from \$131 million to \$519 million.

Section 10 of the Crown Lands Resumption Ordinance regulated the payment of compensation on the resumption of land. The legislative code in England relating to compulsory acquisition contained no express provision corresponding to section 10(2)(d), but in all respects relevant in the present case the principles applicable under the two codes were the same. The purpose of the provisions, in Hong Kong and England, was to provide fair compensation for a claimant whose land had been compulsorily taken from him.

Land might have a special value to a claimant over and above the price it would fetch if sold in the open market. Fair compensation required that he should be paid for the value of the land to him, not its value generally or its value to the acquiring authority.

If he was using the land to carry on a business, the value of the land to him

would include the value of his being able to conduct his business there without disturbance. Compensation should cover that disturbance loss as well as the market value of the land itself.

The expenses and losses he incurred in moving his business to a new site would ordinarily be the measure of the special loss he sustained. If the business could not be moved elsewhere, so it had to close down, prima facie his loss would be measured by the value of the business as a going concern.

The application of the general principle of fair and adequate compensation bristled with problems. As useful guidelines were few, the court had to be satisfied to qualify for compensation:

- 1 There must be a causal connection between the resumption or acquisition and the loss in question.
- 2 The loss must not be too remote.
- 3 The claimant must have behaved reasonably. Losses or expenditure incurred unreasonably could not be said to be caused by, or be the consequence of, or be due to the resumption.

Their Lordships were unable to accept the Crown's submission that a claimant could never be entitled to compensation on a relocation basis if that would exceed the amount of compensation payable on an extinguishment basis.

Ordinarily the expenses and losses incurred when a business was moved to a new site would be less than the value of the business as a going concern. Compensation payable on a relocation basis would normally be less than compensation payable on an extinguishment basis. But that would not always be so, and a rigid limitation as to the amount of compensation payable on a relocation basis, if it depended on how a reasonable businessman, using his own money, would behave in the circumstances, would be unfair.

The Tribunal or court would need to scrutinise the relocation claim with care, to see whether a reasonable businessman having adequate funds of his own

might incur the expenditure. Compensation was not intended to provide a means whereby a dispossessed owner could finance a business venture which, were he using his own money, he would not commence. When considering those matters the Tribunal or court might allow itself a moderate degree of latitude in approving as reasonable the relocation of a family business.

The same result could be arrived at by reasoning expressed in other language which accorded more directly with the basic principle that compensation was payable for the value to the claimant of the land in question.

When determining what the value of the land was in effect assessing how much a prudent person in the position of the claimant would himself have been prepared to give for the land sooner than lose it. In some circumstances the extra value of the land to a prudent businessman might exceed the present value of the business and that extra value was part of the value of the land to the claimant.

Shun Fung's relocation claim

Three principal questions arose on relocation claims:

- 1 Could the business be relocated, or had it effectively been extinguished? If the business was not capable of being relocated compensation would have to be assessed on the extinguishment basis.
- 2 Did the claimant intend to relocate? The claimant had to have reached a firm decision to relocate his business and be reasonably assured that he would be able to do so.
- 3 Would a reasonable businessman relocate the business?

The Lands Tribunal was impressed by the many years discontinuity between the business at Junk Bay and the business planned for Shunde and concluded that the latter would not be the same business as the one carried on at Junk Bay.

In 1986 the land resumption forced Shun Fung to close its business and liquidate most of its operating assets. Its business was effectively extinguished at that time.

The Court of Appeal took a different view. The issue was essentially one of fact and degree and their Lordships could see no ground entitling the Court

of Appeal to depart from the conclusions reached by the Tribunal on the basis of its primary findings of fact.

Shun Fung's claim for compensation to cover the cost of moving to Shunde and re-establishing its business there failed.

Loss of profits in the shadow period

Shun Fung first became aware that its business was under threat when it received a letter from the government in November 1981. The Tribunal found that the removal of the business from the land was in the nature of a slow asphyxiation for Shun Fung.

Customers became unwilling to enter into long term forward contracts. Shun Fung reasonably and properly decided in June 1982 not to enter into contracts of more than six months duration. From November 1981 to January 1987, while operating as best it could under the threat of resumption, the company suffered financially to the extent of \$18.173 million.

The question was whether a loss occurring before resumption could be regarded, for compensation purposes, as a loss caused by the resumption. At first sight the question seemed to admit of only one answer. Cause had to precede effect. A loss which preceded resumption could not be caused by it. Hence a presumption that loss could not be the subject of compensation.

That approach led to practical results from which one instinctively recoiled. It would also run counter to the reasoning underlying the principle in *Pointe Gourde Quarrying and Transport Co Ltd v Sub-Intendant of Crown Lands* [1947] AC 565.

In *Aberdeen City District Council v Sir* [1952] 245 EG 521 the Inner House of the Court of Session held that legal expenses incurred before the date of the deemed notice to treat were compensable. In *Prasad v Wolverhampton Borough Council* [1983] Ch 333 the Court of Appeal in England reached a similar conclusion regarding removal expenses.

The Crown submitted those decisions were wrong. Shun Fung's claim for compensation

under this head succeeded before the Lands Tribunal, which construed "removal" in section 10(2)(d) as including threat of removal.

It also held that resumption was a process, starting in the present case with the onset of the scheme for the new town at Junk Bay.

The Court of Appeal disagreed on the "threat" point, but adopted a similar approach on the "process" point save that it held that the process of resumption did not begin until the order was made in October 1985, and it awarded only \$6.875 million.

Their Lordships were unable to accept the latter approach. Resumption in section 10(1) was a reference to the reversion of the land to the Crown. That was an event, not a process. That event occurred on July 30, 1986.

Far from furthering the legislative purpose of providing fair compensation the Crown's contention would have the opposite effect. Coming events might cast their shadows before them and resumption was such an event.

On the Crown's argument a person who sensibly and reasonably moved out a few days before resumption would be unable to recover his removal expenses. That would rightly bring the law into disrepute. So the search was for a coherent principle which would, in the first place, provide compensation for the removal expenses of a landowner who reasonably moved out before resumption.

If the Crown's contention was rejected, as it had to be, there was no sensible stopping place short of recognising that losses incurred in anticipation of resumption and because of the threat which resumption presented were to be regarded as losses caused by the resumption as much as losses arising after resumption.

That involved giving the concept of causal connection an extended meaning, wide enough to embrace all such losses. To qualify for compensation a loss suffered post-resumption had to satisfy the three conditions of being causally connected, not too remote, and not a loss which a reasonable person would have avoided.

A loss sustained post-scheme and pre-resumption would not fall for lack of

causal connection by reason only that the loss arose before resumption, provided it arose in anticipation of resumption and because of the threat which resumption presented.

That result was fair and sensible. Had there been no scheme, the losses in question would not have arisen. The result was achieved because it accorded with the established *Pointe Gourde* principle.

It also meant that compensation was not dependent on whether the acquiring authority acted speedily or tardily in carrying through the process culminating in resumption.

At the outset of a shadow period, there might be no certainty that resumption would take place. As time passed, and the scheme proceeded, the likelihood of resumption increased, until a resumption order was made. At that stage, but not before, there was a legal commitment.

There was no sound reason for attempting to draw a spurious line somewhere along that penumbra of gradually darkening shadow. The less certain the prospect of resumption, the greater would be the burden of showing that the landowner acted reasonably in running down his business and that the losses were caused by the prospect of resumption.

Accordingly, all Shun Fung's pre-resumption losses, totalling \$18.173 million, ranked for compensation. Both Sir's case and *Prasad's* case were correctly decided.

Lord Justice Stephenson's observation in the latter case (at p357), that loss of material practice by Dr Prasad and his wife due to the threat of impending compulsory purchase was not compensable, would need reconsideration if it was to be read as an observation of general application.

After considering other issues their Lordships recommended that the appeal should be allowed, the cross-appeal allowed in respect of the claim for loss of profits in the shadow period, and the order of the Lands Tribunal resumed.

Lord Mustill and Lord Slynn delivered a dissenting judgment on the cross-appeal.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; McKenna & Co.

Sanctions orders are valid

Regina v Searle

Regina v K. C. S. Products Ltd

Regina v Borjanovic

Regina v BYE Ltd

Before Lord Taylor of Gostforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice McKeown and Mr Justice Judd

[Judgment February 24]

EEC regulations and a United Kingdom order restricting exports from and imports to Serbia and Montenegro were valid, and the regulations being valid, effective statutory machinery for enforcing by penalties the sanctions they imposed.

The Court of Appeal (Criminal Division), so held when dismissing four appeals against conviction of contravention of prohibitions imposed by the Serbia and Montenegro (United Nations Sanctions) Order (SI 1992 No 1302) and EEC Council Regulations 1992 No 1432 and 1993 No 990.

Terence Searle, aged 56, and K. C. S. Products Ltd were convicted on pleas of guilty, following rejection of a motion to have the indictment quashed, at Southwark Crown Court by Judge Gee, on a count charging being knowingly concerned in the exportation of goods with intent to evade the prohibition imposed by the regulations and the order, and a count similarly prohibiting importation.

The case against them concerned a journey in August 1992, when a lorry carried out trichloroethane and returned with basic chrome sulphate. Searle was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment on each count, concurrently and was ordered to pay £15,000 towards prosecution costs; K. C. S. Products were fined £5,000 on each count and ordered to pay £15,000 costs.

Borjanovic, aged 35, was convicted at Southwark Crown Court before Judge Bunge, QC, on a plea of guilty to being knowingly concerned in the attempted exportation of goods with intent to evade the prohibition and

to eight counts of contravening the prohibition.

The case against him was that unlawful trade was deliberately and deceptively carried on relating to a variety of goods, mainly chemicals used in the manufacture of fertilisers and plastics. He was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment on each count, concurrently.

A company, BYE Ltd, of which Borjanovic was a director, similarly pleaded guilty and was fined £5,000 on each count.

Mr Geoffrey Cox, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Searle; Mr Geoffrey Cox for K. C. S. Products; Mr David Cocks, QC, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for Borjanovic; Mr David Cocks, QC, for BYE Ltd; Mr Gerald Barling, QC and Mr Stephen Kramer for the Crown.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the judgment of the court, said that the issues to be determined on the appeal were whether the regulations were valid; if so, whether the 1992 Order was also valid; and whether, if the regulations were valid, there was in fact effective statutory machinery for enforcing the sanctions they imposed by penalties.

The regulations were made under article 113 of the EEC Treaty and the court could not hold the regulations to be invalid without first ascertaining a preliminary ruling from the European Court of Justice, although their Lordships' court was fully entitled to consider the issue of validity and to hold the regulations valid without making such a reference: see Case (01/78) *Granaria BV* [1979] ECR 623, 636 and Case 31/85 *Foia-Frost* [1987] ECR 4199.

The regulations so far as material to the appeal restricted exports from and imports to Serbia and Montenegro. His Lordship considered the submissions and said that their Lordships rejected the challenge to the validity of the regulations. Since they reached their conclusion with confidence, they considered it unnecessary to refer the

issue raised to the European Court under article 177 of the EEC Treaty.

Given that the regulations were valid the next consideration was Mr Cox's argument that the 1992 Order was invalid.

The Crown had relied on article 234 of the EEC Treaty and in their Lordships' judgment the Crown's reliance on article 234 was well founded. The United Kingdom had a duty to direct and implement the United Nations resolution.

What was necessary to be done was a matter for the national authorities to decide. There was no question of the order being incompatible with the regulations or seeking to displace them. Article 234 operated to ensure the Community from imposing the United Kingdom's performance of its obligations under the UN Charter.

It was submitted that, unless the court was confident that the challenge to the validity of the order failed, that issue should be referred to the European Court of Justice. Their Lordships were confident that it failed and that no reference was necessary.

As to the third issue, whether there was in place effective statutory machinery for enforcing the sanctions they imposed by penalties, the court was confident that the challenge to the validity of the order failed, that issue should be referred to the European Court of Justice.

Their Lordships were confident that it failed and that no reference was necessary. As to the third issue, whether there was in place effective statutory machinery for enforcing the sanctions they imposed by penalties, the court was confident that the challenge to the validity of the order failed, that issue should be referred to the European Court of Justice.

under the European Community treaties to come into force within the United Kingdom without further enactment.

In the United Kingdom it was and since 1979 had been an offence to act in a way prohibited by the Customs and Excise (Management) Act 1979, itself a consolidating Act, re-enacting similar long standing prohibitions. The enforcement of the regulations had a duty to direct and implement the United Nations resolution.

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Warral Metropolitan Borough Council v Commissioners of Customs and Excise

Before Mr Justice Potts

[Judgment February 10]

Section 324 of the Value Added Tax Act 1983, and regulation 26 of the Value Added Tax (General) Regulations (SI 1985 No 896) were applicable only to actual rather than to mere deemed supplies where goods or services were supplied through an agent who acted in his own name.

Mr Justice Potts so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing the appeal of Warral Metropolitan Borough Council against the dismissal by a Manchester VAT tribunal on December 14, 1992 of the council's appeal against a VAT assessment by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise dated May 1991.

The council engaged builders on a contract basis to carry out building works, and thereafter entered into an agreement with Morgan Grenfell (Local Authority Finance) Ltd whereby the latter agreed to pay the builders the sums due under the building contracts, the council agreed to repay Morgan Grenfell the sums so paid, and Morgan Grenfell appointed the council as its agent for the purposes of those building contracts.

Mr Alan E. James for the council; Mr Kenneth Parker, QC, for the commissioners.

MR JUSTICE POTTS said that as the building works progressed the appellant paid the builders the sums due and claimed and received credit for the VAT element of the invoiced sums. The appellant then claimed and received reimbursement from Morgan Grenfell, but did not declare the VAT element of those invoiced sums in its returns for the periods during which the sums were invoiced to it.

The commissioners were of the view that the council ought to have done so. His Lordship added that the council made no supply of building services to Morgan Grenfell whatsoever, and the supply to that company was a statutory fiction; that that deemed supply had to be treated as having taken place at the time of the supply of building services from the builders to the council.

Regulation 26 of the 1985 Regulations, on the subject of the time of supply, was not intended to apply to the deemed supply of building services from the appellant to Morgan Grenfell arising from the

received reimbursement from Morgan Grenfell, but did not declare the VAT element of those invoiced sums in its returns for the periods during which the sums were invoiced to it.

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operation of section 324 of the 1985 Act.

The provisions of the Act and of the regulations could only be enforced if the tax point for the deemed supplies by the agent to its principal was to be determined by reference to the time of the actual supplies made by the builders to the agent/appellant.

By virtue of section 324 of the 1985 Act, the commissioners could, as they had in this case, treat the supply to the agent as both a supply to the agent and a supply by the agent to his principal. Thus, the receipt of services by the agent gave rise to recoverable input tax, and the deemed supply by him gave rise to an output tax by him which he had to account.

Solicitors: Mr P. G. Manson, Wallasey; Solicitor, Customs and Excise.

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EDUCATION

SEVEN-YEAR-OLDS

Children must perform a series of set tasks in reading, writing and mathematics in small groups some time between their return from half-term and four weeks before the end of the summer term. They will also sit a spelling test (words such as "afternoon" or "caught") and a 40-minute arithmetic test in May. Science will be assessed solely by teachers. Overall, most children are unlikely to have to spend more than two and a half hours on the tests.

The examples (right) are drawn from test papers designed for pupils of typical ability for their ages. The sample questions are from mathematics papers for 7 and 14-year-olds and the science papers for 11-year-olds.

Three Cakes

Here are the ingredients for one Honey Cake.

175g self-raising flour
125g margarine
100g soft brown sugar
160g honey
2 eggs (size 3)
1 tablespoon water

A close words to make three Honey Cakes.

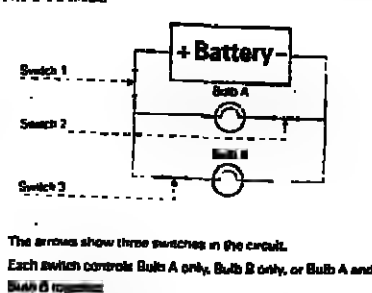
- Write down how much they will need for 3 cakes.
- | |
|----------------------|
| g self-raising flour |
| g margarine |
| g soft brown sugar |
| g honey |
| eggs |
| tablespoons of water |

ELEVEN-YEAR-OLDS

THE first compulsory tests for this age group will last about four hours between May 15 and 18. English includes a 15-minute spelling and handwriting test (words such as "concentrating" or "illuminated"), 45 minutes to write an imaginative story and 45 minutes testing pupils' understanding of a passage and poems by answering a series of questions.

There are two 35-minute mathematics papers, each a mixture of arithmetic, basic geometry and algebra, probability and the interpretation of graphs. Two science papers lasting 35 minutes each will require pupils to recall factual knowledge of subjects such as the weather, electricity, the solar system, parts of plants and the body.

27. Here is a circuit.



The switches show three switches in the circuit. Each switch controls Bulb A only, Bulb B only, or Bulb A and Bulb B together.

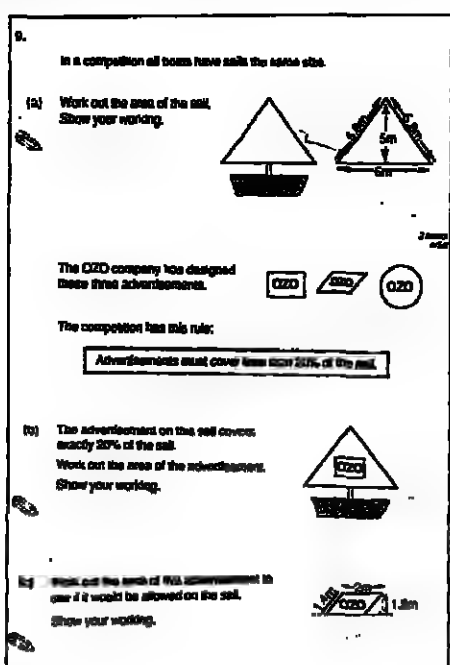
Complete the table to show which switch will switch off:

	Switch
Bulb A only	
Bulb B only	
Bulb A and Bulb B together	

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLDS

PUPILS will sit at least six tests totalling almost seven hours between May 5 and 12. Most pupils will take two English tests. The first on May 5, lasting 90 minutes, will use unseen passages to test their reading comprehension, handwriting and spelling. A second test, lasting 75 minutes, will be based on specified scenes from one of three Shakespeare plays: *Julius Caesar*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or *Romeo and Juliet*. Pupils will be allowed to refer to the original text during the test. The questions are designed to test their understanding and appreciation of the whole play.

There are two hour-long papers for both mathematics and science, which are expected to be closer in style to GCSE papers.



A parent's guide to the test season

New coaching manuals are springing up to help children through the government tests which begin this week. Ben Preston reports

THE school tests season begins for real today, seven years after the Government first decided that the way to educational salvation lay with a trinity of compulsory mini-examinations, league tables and a national curriculum.

Before the summer is out, nearly two million children aged seven, 11 and 14 are scheduled to sit formal tests in English, mathematics and science. The decision by the National Union of Teachers last month to abandon its tests boycott means that after endless bruising, often bewildering battles between ministers and the profession, the threat of wholesale industrial action has suddenly lifted. But predictions that testing will proceed without disruption may yet prove wishful thinking. The Treasury's refusal fully to fund the teacher's 2.7 per cent pay increase is the largest storm cloud gathering over schools. It could yet trigger local action against tests in protest at threatened teacher redundancies.

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, the main moderate union, maintains that Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, is tempting fate to declare that testing is firmly on track. He argues: "The mood of the profession is exceedingly volatile. There may well be teachers who say that if the decision over teachers' pay means 'I am at a real risk of losing my job', then this will be reflected in their enthusiasm for conducting tests."

The advent of compulsory national testing is, however, already having an impact at homes as well as in schools. Fresh research by Oxford Brookes University underlines how tests have become part of the education landscape and that the political campaign for

the hearts and minds of parents has been won. Four out of five parents now want tests at the end of primary school. Tests for seven-year-olds are much more popular among parents than when they were mooted in 1987.

Yet parents remain less than convinced of the benefits of using the results as bricks to build school league tables. Some 40 per cent said they did not read their local tables and only one quarter said these had influenced their choice of secondary school. Only 2 per cent of parents said they seriously considered switching secondary schools because of league table results.

But this is likely to change as the tests put down stronger roots with the public. Let's Educational, the publishers, last week launched three coaching manuals — in English, mathematics and science (each priced £3.95) — to help parents to prepare their 11-year-olds for the Government's tests. The

workbooks are designed to let children practise with the style of questions they will face, teaching them how to concentrate while making the ritual of testing more familiar.

Although the workbooks aim to lessen the problem of pupils' pre-test nerves, they clearly play on parental anxieties about the purpose of testing. Ministers argue that test results, like a doctor's thermometer, give parents and teachers important information about each pupil's educational health. But the workbooks suggest that the results count for more: the implication is that they might yet have a role in secondary school selection procedures. More likely, the tests could be used as a basis for streaming.

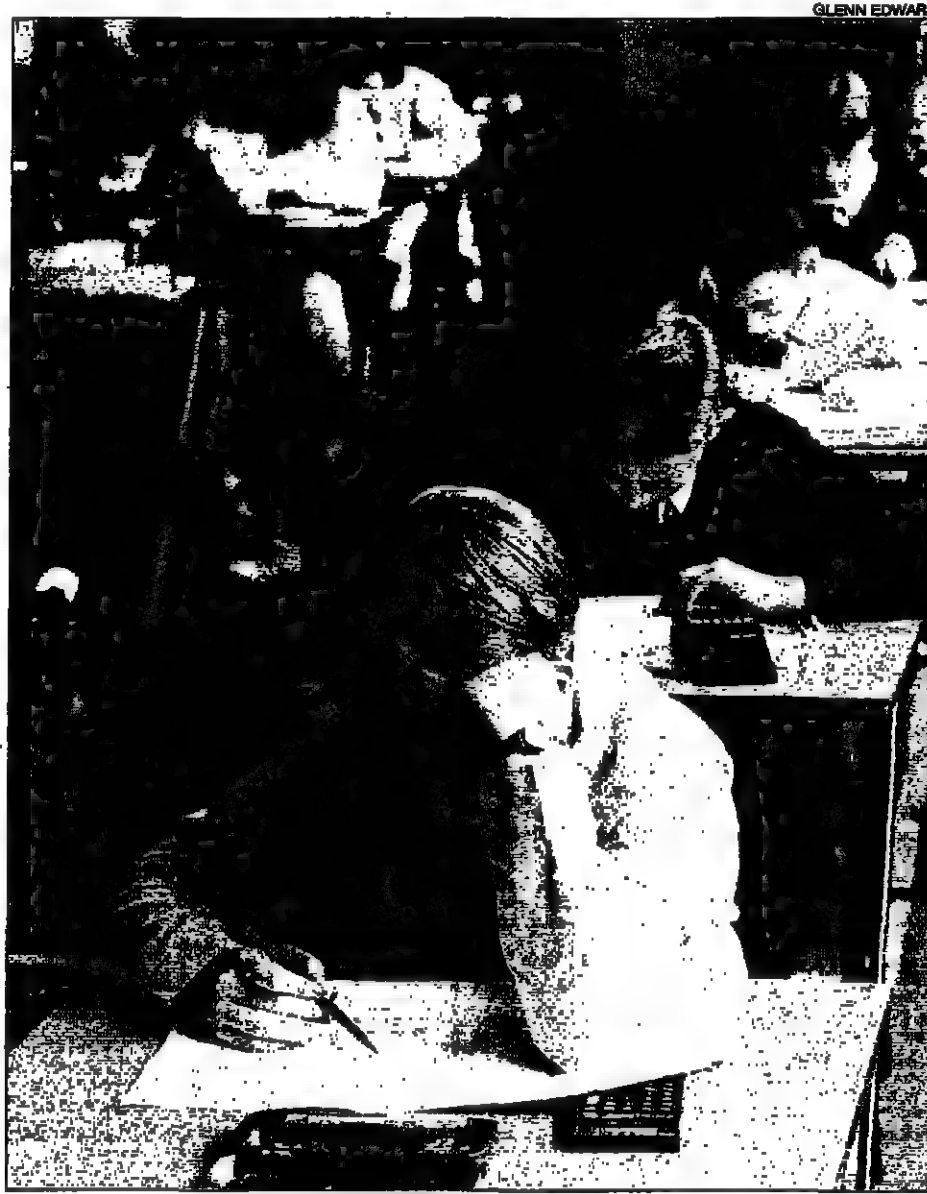
The question of how parents might help to prepare their children for testing remains vexed. Answers vary according to the age-group concerned. Officials at the School Curriculum and

Assessment Authority argue that for 11-year-olds a balance must be struck between parents supporting and helping their children, and creating undue pressure and anxiety. One explained: "Parental interest in education is always valuable. These tests in English, mathematics and science assess how thorough each child's grounding is across the whole range of a subject. Parents can, of course, make a key contribution by helping children with their homework or in other ways."

The official added, however, that the style of questions means that narrow coaching aimed specifically at improving test performance — as was common for the old 11-plus — is unlikely to be fruitful.

The authority has advised teachers to lay the groundwork for 11-year-olds, noting that some will find taking tests under controlled conditions a new experience. Teachers have been told to arrange some dry runs so that pupils can learn to pace their work against the clock, follow instructions to the letter and be prepared for the possibility that they cannot answer some questions. In addition, the authority says teachers should warn pupils that the science tests will require them to recall some factual knowledge.

Such advice comes in the wake of disappointing results from about 130,000 14-year-olds whose schools defied last summer's test boycott. They showed that one in three pupils failed to reach the expected standards in core subjects, with weaknesses particularly acute in English. Teachers have suggested that pupils panicked under the pressure of their first venture in the intimidating quiet of the examination hall. The generation of pupils entering primaries today is unlikely to suffer the same fate — it will be thoroughly schooled in the culture of testing.



Last year's 14-year-old maths tests at the grant-maintained Cwmcam School, Gwent

Should rugby get the red card?

Anthea Saxon
questions a
school game
that could give
her son a
permanent injury

THE juddering tackles, writhing mauls and flailing fists of the five nations' championship are enough to make even the most phlegmatic parent gulp. It takes little to rekindle the parental fear — and let's be honest, it is felt most keenly by mothers — that their son will get seriously injured playing rugby.

I was asked by my son recently: "If I lay quite still on the pitch for ten minutes, would you run on screaming?" My answer in the affirmative means I am now banned from the terror of watching 12-year-olds hurtle into the scrum, teeth, limbs and studs flying in all directions, as I pace the touchline sending safety vibes on to the pitch. As a result, I have to will his protection from long distance. But I am left wondering if any such game that causes such anxiety is worth the candle? More particularly, should it be a mainstream and often compulsory school sport?

More than 3,000 schools are members of the Rugby Football Union, including a handful of girls-only schools. Rugby has an in-built advantage for schools, in that it ties up a lot of players in the field. "Rugby is character-building and develops good team spirit," says Ron Tennick, technical administrator for the Rugby Football Union's National Centre for Schools and Youth. "It caters for all shapes and sizes. You can have a tiny



Running into danger? Insurers say that the injuries from games of rugby are more severe than from other sports

agile scrum half and a heavier prop forward."

But school teams cannot always match up to this ideal. In particular, teams of 15 to 18-year-olds are affected by the exigencies of examinations. Dan Hearn, a former international who coached rugby at Haileybury for 15 years despite having being permanently disabled in a game, says this is the most vulnerable age. "There is the greatest disparity in the physical development of boys, while their tremendous enthusiasm and impetuosity also increases the risks."

Huge efforts are being made to improve safety. The Rugby Football Union is constantly reviewing its laws for under-19s. "About five years ago, we changed the way rugby is introduced to children in school," says Ian Beer, last season's president of the Rugby Football Union. "The way it is coached from seven to 12 is called continuum because

each year the rules change. There is no tackling at eight. At nine, no handing-off or lineouts. There are small-sided games rather than 15-a-side. Slowly, the game builds up in complexity."

Mr Beer believes that the quality of the coach and his motives are of paramount importance: "The coach who wants to win at all costs is a disaster. One has to remember that the game one sees on television is not what is played in schools. Most schoolboys seem to know how to behave better than some adults."

David Ray, master in charge of rugby at Rugby, says: "The changes affecting all age groups have helped. But what the boys wear, the condition of the pitches and medical facilities are also very important. We don't recommend off-the-peg mouth guards, so the school doctor will measure

and purpose-build them. We are also careful to keep dogs off pitches. We see that tetanus injections are up to date."

Despite all this, accidents still happen. Figures for 1993 from Holmwoods, a leading provider of personal accident cover to schools, show that there were 1,185 claims for major sports (cricket, football, hockey and rugby) played in schools. Fifty-four per cent were for rugby injuries, with these accounting for 83 per cent of money paid out for these sports. About 540,000 pupils were covered for personal accident. Holmwoods' director, Peter Newnham, says: "We found that the injuries from rugby are more severe, increasing the likelihood of permanent disability."

Rugby is now optional at Rugby, as at many other schools. "It is important for boys to get confidence through fitness," says Richard Morgan, warden of Radley Coll-

ege. "Instead of shivering on the rugby field, some may get far more value from swimming or basketball."

Not pushing the unwilling on to the rugby field may be financially prudent, too. "I worry about insurance," says Mr Hearn. "I am concerned that in the present climate young people could end up taking each other to court. But I still believe any parent stopping their son playing rugby would be depriving them of a tremendous privilege. It demands levels of skill and courage like no other sport. It is a mad game, but the best people play it."

As I finish writing this, my son comes home. "Worst game ever," he says. "Three of our side have gone to hospital. One with a head injury, one with a broken wrist, and one with loss of sight. And then the opposition crowd after they won 60-0. Real bullies." I am left to wince.

Voices must be raised to return singing to the classroom

Time to put a song in children's hearts

SINGING develops not only musical knowledge but also self-confidence, team spirit and physical fitness. Anyone can do it. It's tremendous fun and very satisfying. So why on earth are we allowing it to slip imperceptibly out of our schools and, by extension, to disappear from national culture?

My head is bubbling with tunes: hymns, operatic arias, music-hall songs, nursery rhymes, themes from symphonies, folk airs. And I first encountered many of them at school. There were regular singing lessons and there was "musical appreciation", taught both formally in lessons and obliquely, by ensuring that we heard "incidental" music every day.

How I lament the demise of the splendid old *National Song Book*, sturdy in its red cover. Suggested by the Board of Education in 1905, it comprised a fine collection of folk songs, carols and rounds edited and arranged for schools by Charles Villiers Stanford and Geoffrey Shaw. And even in the 1950s it was the mainstay of our school singing lessons. When I was 11 or 12, I learnt bits of our musical and historical heritage from it, songs such as *The Lass of Richmond Hill*, *The Vicar of Bray*, *Men of Harlech* and *Rule, Britannia*. All jolly good tunes.

The *National Song Book* is now almost forgotten. In fact I had great difficulty finding a copy to refer to in order to write this article. That wouldn't matter if it had been replaced by some-

thing equally eclectic but it hasn't. Of course there are song books in use in schools but there doesn't seem to be much enthusiasm for singing from either teachers or children. Intermittent tinkling away on chime bars and glockenspiels in the interests of "composition" seems to rule the day. Yet the voice is the instrument which everyone has at his or her disposal — tone deafness is largely a myth. It's free

Worse, singing becomes "naïf" and gets used as a form of stony rebellion in assemblies and the like. Someone plays the piano and the whole school stares silently and insolently into space. Anyone who visits schools will have seen this sad sight. They're missing so much. It's an unsung (literally) form of cultural deprivation.

VIEWPOINT



SUSAN ELKIN

and is potentially both beautiful and powerful.

My own children learnt many of the songs I was taught in school from records by a folk group, the Yetties. As a family we went to lots of their concerts, which are always informal join-in affairs. The Yetties, of course, would have known *The National Song Book* in their Dorset schools, and their repertoire happily also includes traditional music, music hall songs and war songs.

These days, too many

children have nothing in their mental musical repertoire to get their mouths round. Generally, if they "sing" at all they seem to be limited to pop numbers performed thinly from the throat.

WHAT a joy to visit a prep school the other day in which the music teacher — himself also a professional performing orchestral musician — was singing with three-year-olds. They were standing up straight and he was getting them to breathe from the diaphragm as they went through nursery and traditional songs. Their unaccompanied sound was strong and clear and they were having a wonderful time. Privileged children indeed.

All children deserve that sort of experience and any teacher with the will could provide it — as long as she or he begins with the very youngest children and knows plenty of songs. And there's the rub. Many adults — perhaps, a generation — are now effectively song-illiterate. It will need a concentrated drive to save school singing from extinction but surely it would be worth the effort?

TODAY

Interim: Bolton Group, Community Hospitals, Edinburgh Income Trust, Essex Furniture, Garthmore Scotland IT, Go-Ahead Group, Heritage, Johnson Fry Utilities, Primatone, Finsale Burlington Group, Capita Group, CrestaCare, Dixon Motors, HSBC Holdings, Leeds & Holbeck Building Society, London Finance & Investment Group, Midland Bank, Millgate, Pegasus Group, Regis, Economic statistics: M0 figures (February - provisional).

TOMORROW

Interim: Henderson Euro Trust, Isotron, MR-Data Management, Murray Income Trust, River & Mer, Sculler & Partners, Trust, William Sinclair, TR European Growth Trust, Finsale: Admiral, Blago, Burford Holdings, Canab Pharmaceuticals, Capital Shopping, Central European Growth, Corporate Services, Cowie Group, General Accident, Govett & Co, Domnick Hunter, London Finance & Investment, McDonnell Information Systems, Mediastream Fund, Midland Independent News, RPS Group, Scottish Eastern IT, Sleepy Kids, Sphere IT, Spring Ram, WPP Group, Economic statistics: Monthly digest of statistics (February), economic trends (February), major British banking groups' mortgage lending (January).

WEDNESDAY

Interim: Johnson Fry European, Jos Holdings, Lix Printing Technologies, Finsale: Associated British Ports, Boddington Group, BWD Securities, Graham Group, Graham Group, HTV Group, Lismo, Lax Service, North American Gas IT, Record Holdings, Serco Group, Stat-Plus Group, Transatlantic Holdings, Vickers, Yorkshire Food, Economic statistics: Overseas travel and tourism (December).

THURSDAY

Interim: Brierley Investments, Chesterton International, Ex-Landis, Finsale: Group, Galliford, Finsale: Abbey National, J. Biffen, British Aerospace, Life Sciences International, Mercury World Mining, Murray International Trust, Sun Alliance, George Wimpey, Zeneca, Economic statistics: UK official reserves (February).

FRIDAY

Interim: Waterman Partnership, Finsale: Henlys Group, Liffeshaill, Nightingale, Second Market Investment Company, Economic statistics: Full monetary statistics - including bank and building society balance sheets, bill turnover statistics, lending secured on dwellings, official operations in the money market, sterling commercial paper and personal lending (January).

HSBC empire fights back with £3bn

HSBC HOLDINGS: As the banks' reporting season continues, today's profits from HSBC, the international banking group whose empire includes Midland Bank, are expected to top the £3 billion mark as lower provisions more than offset a slump in dealing profits.

Uncertainty over China and Hong Kong may continue to shadow the group, but NatWest Securities is looking for final pre-tax profits to advance by 21 per cent to £3.11 billion (£2.58 billion). Market forecasts range from £2.7 billion to £3.14 billion. An increased dividend of 26p-28p (23.5p) is predicted.

NatWest expects HSBC's pre-provision profits to be down by over 10 per cent to £3.22 billion, with dealing profits forecast to slump to £281 million (£308 million). Lower provisions in Asia and the United Kingdom are expected to help the bad debt charge fall to £395 million (£1.16 billion). The figures will also be boosted by disposal gains in Asia and the UK.

Marine Midland, the US banking subsidiary, has already reported a surge in profits to \$348 million (\$149 million). Midland is likely to show a £400 million fall in profits to £1.01 billion because of poorer Treasury dealing, although there will be a gain of £65 million on the sale of the stake in the 31 venture capital group. Lower dealing revenues are expected to see pre-disposal profits at Hongkong Bank slip to £1.48 billion (£1.52 billion).

GENERAL ACCIDENT: Kind weather in the final quarter is expected to help GA continue the trend of improved trading, though its estate agency side could still be in the red. Overseas should feature good results from Australasia, recovery in the US and Europe, but setback in Canada.

David Hudson, of Credit Lyonnais Laing, expects a positive result from GA's UK non-life operation and an improvement in claim frequencies to help final pre-tax profits advance to £410 million (£394.9 million). A dividend of 28.7p (27.5p) is predicted. Market forecasts range from £410 million to £440 million.



BAA chiefs Bob Bauman, left, and Dick Evans await the outcome of their contested bid for VSEL.

VICKERS: The Challenger tanks to Rolls-Royce cars group, which recently announced a deal with Germany's BMW to supply a new generation of engines for prestige Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars, should drive to sharply higher profits on Wednesday. Colin Fell, of Kleinwort Benson, expects final pre-tax profits to rise to £45 million (£32 million), with a dividend of at least 4p (3p). Market forecasts range from £42 million to £48 million.

ABBAY NATIONAL: The building society turned bank should report a healthy advance in full-year profits on Thursday, as lower provisions and an improved share of the mortgage market offset some erosion in lending margins.

Martin Hughes, of Credit Lyonnais Laing, has pencilled in final pre-tax profits of £887 million (£704 million), with a dividend of 17.1p (14p) predicted. Forecasts range from £860 million to £902 million.

BRITISH AEROSPACE: Britain's biggest defence contractor should please the City on Thursday when it unveils final figures showing a return to the black. Bob Bauman, chairman, and Dick Evans, chief executive, also await an Office of Fair Trading ruling in the coming weeks on the contested bid for VSEL, the Trident submarine maker.

BAA has already forecast profits of about £185 million for 1994, announced at the time of its proposed regional jet joint venture with ATR, jointly owned by Aerospaciale of France and Alenia of Italy. The turnaround from losses of £237 million last time will be boosted by a huge one-off gain on the sale of Rover Group and some progress on defence orders.

Sandy Morris, of NatWest Securities, forecasts FR3 final pre-tax profits of £195 million, with a dividend of 10.5p (8.3p) predicted. However, Mr Morris says that the 1994 results will be distorted by several one-off factors. These include a £299 million profit on the sale of Rover, a £16 million loss on the sale of corporate jets, a £30 million charge for the cost of early debt settlement and a hefty £25 million provision for the phasing out of the Jetstream 61 turbo-prop planes.

GEORGE WIMPEY: Thursday should provide evidence from what is now expected to be the UK's largest housebuilder, with completions at George Wimpey forecast to reach about 8,000 units. Christopher Grant, of BZW, is looking for final pre-tax profits to advance to £47 million (£25.5 million), with a dividend of 5.5p (5.2p) predicted.

Attention will focus on what Wimpey has to say about the effects in the early part of this year of higher interest rates on an already struggling housing market.

ZENECA: A strong agrochemicals performance and healthy pharmaceutical sales should ensure a healthy profits advance when the drugs group reports full-year figures on Thursday. Analysts expect pre-tax profits of between £750 million and £780 million, excluding an exceptional £100 million restructuring charge. A dividend of 28.5p-29p (27.5p) is predicted.

Zeneca has left little room for surprises, after saying last month that 1994 trading was broadly in line with expectations. Pharmaceuticals, which accounted for 42 per cent of sales in 1993, saw second-half growth rates comparable to the 6 per cent recorded in the first half, in spite of tough markets in Italy and America.

Nadir to seek court ruling

By COLIN NARBROUGH

ASIL NADIR, the fugitive former head of collapsed Polly Peck International, will today seek to have the PPI administrator legally barred from interfering in the running of the company's assets in northern Cyprus.

Gaining control of the northern Cyprus businesses, which include the luxury Jasmine Court Hotel, has proved a big headache for Coopers & Lybrand, the administrator. Mr Nadir, a Turkish-Cypriot, has enjoyed the important backing of Rauf Denktas, the northern Cyprus leader.

Mr Nadir, who jumped bail in 1993 after being charged in England with theft involving £34 million, will today ask a court in Nicosia for a ruling that the PPI administrator has no power to interfere with the administration of PPI subsidiaries in northern Cyprus.

His request to the court is based on the fact that the administrator has not registered its administration order with the local authorities.

But Chris Barlow, of Coopers & Lybrand, said that the administrator's view is that there is no need for such registration. However, he said that a ruling against Mr Nadir could give fresh impetus to the drive by the administrator to wrest control of local assets from him. The local portfolio has a book value of £50 million.

A dispute over property rights caused the collapse of the northern Cyprus coalition administration last week. The dispute was prompted by a proposal from Mr Denktas to give the deeds of properties abandoned by Greek Cypriots when the island was partitioned in 1974 to their current occupiers.

He was accused by members of the coalition of seeking to bribe the electorate before forthcoming presidential elections.

Greek Cypriots have long accused Mr Nadir of taking advantage of the Turkish military invasion of Cyprus in 1974 to build up his business empire in the northern part of the island.

JANET BUSH

Evidence could point to a slowdown in demand

The Sunday Times: Bay Power Station, Bluebird Toys, The Observer, Bay Regent Inns, Ashted Group, The Independent On Sunday, Bay Spring Rain, WPP Sell Williams Holdings, The Sunday Telegraph, Bay Spargo Consulting, Cherrington, Colleagues, The Mail On Sunday, Bay Johnson & Firth Brown, European Colour.

EVEN if this week had not been short on British economic statistics, the attention of the markets would still have been on Wednesday's European debate, called by Labour as a challenge to the Government. Investor nerves were already rattled last Friday and sterling, shares and gilts all slumped.

The Government's troubles came against a background of weakening consumer demand. This week's small list of statistics may provide more evidence of this trend. Today, figures for M0 money supply for February should show a rise of between 0.2 per cent

and 0.4 per cent in M0, taking its annual rate of growth near to 6 per cent or even below it. As recently as November, M0 was increasing at 7 per cent annually. Slowing M0 would still tend to back up the view that domestic demand is slowing.

On Wednesday, February's purchasing managers' survey is published, along with the Nationwide's house price index. That is

followed on Friday by the Halifax's index. Friday also sees the January figures for personal borrowing, including mortgages and consumer credit. In December, consumer credit was £865 million. The median estimate for January, from MMS International, is £870 million, which makes more sense given the weak retail sales reported.

The other major focus of attention will be

US statistics. US markets rallied strongly last week after Alan Greenspan, US Federal Reserve chairman, said that growth was now slowing and that, if it were to slow sufficiently, interest rates could even be lowered, in spite of adverse price pressures. In this context, Wednesday's revisions to American fourth-quarter gross domestic product are important. Preliminary figures put growth at 4.5 per cent and analysts will be looking to see whether that is revised downwards.

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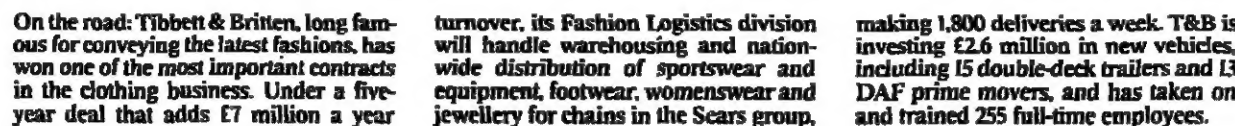
VIRGINIA ST,

LONDON, E1 6SA

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

The *Economic Outlook* hints at a vicious cycle as fiscal policy is relaxed in key countries such as the United States, Germany, France and Britain. It said that income tax cuts worth 1 per cent of GDP would lead to a rise in the premium on long-dated interest rates of 1 per cent, "leading to a further erosion of deficits and rising debt levels". It argued that

The LBS forecasts British growth both this year and next of about 3 per cent and predicted that interest rates will rise to 7 per cent — compared with 6.75 per cent now — and stay at this level next year. Consumption should grow by 1.5 per cent this year, but then probably be boosted by tax cuts to grow by about 2.6 per cent in 1996.



BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

Leaders of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) are broadly in line with the Prime Minister and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, while the Institute of Directors (IoD) is rallying itself more closely to the position of Michael Portillo, the Employment Secretary.

Howard Davies, the CBI

trous consequences" and attacked business leaders who were claiming industry broadly welcomed a single currency.

A new CBI study cautions that although the UK has a long-established position as a major leader in attracting inward investment, this cannot be taken for granted.


Major greenfield invest-

Noting that the UK's continued participation in Europe's single market is of major

EUROPEAN businessmen are cautious about the prospects for economic recovery, according to the latest European Enterprise Index survey from 31 Group. Opinions about the overall economy have worsened slightly since the last survey six months ago, although entrepreneurs are considerably more confident about the prospects for their own business. British business leaders are the most optimistic in Europe about the profit outlook for their companies. Pessimism about the economy is greatest in Germany.

FROM SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH
IN NEW YORK

There are now ten separate inquiries and investigations into the DIA. Two probes by the SEC are examining airport bond deals for potential misleading information and possible solicitation of political favours.

THE  TIMES
Second week
PEP
Token 2
TSB

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 30
INGRAVESCENT

(b) Growing worse. A medical term relating to the course of a disease, but the wider figurative potential is obvious. "Now that he has been appointed editor, we can expect him to be *ingravescent*, I fear."

PROSOPOGRAPHY

(a) The total description of a person — his or her appearance, personality, social status, family connections, employment history, etc., the ultimate cv. In Roman history, particularly, practised by Ronald Syme, the study of politics by the biographies of the politicians. "Candidates are asked to submit three copies of their prosopography."

CICURATE

(4) To tame, civilise or reclaim from a natural state of wildness. "Morag, I'm not having this scowling man of yours in the house again until he has been thoroughly *cicured*."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 ... Oxe2+! 2 Kxg2 Be4+ 3 Kgl Nh3 checkmate

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Florence	→ London _{LOW}	17,15	18,30	123457 ^a

Acquies, Amsterdam, Ankara, Barcelona, Beijing, Bologna, Cagliari, Catania, Firenze, Frankfurt, Genova, Ginevra, L'Avana, Londra, Madrid, Milano, Monaco, Napoli, New York, Padova, Parma, Pisa, Roma, Torino, Venezia, Verona, Zürich.

Lesson of history behind City's ring of confidence

THE
TIMES

Patricia

Tehan looks into the

11 **C** **E**

Brothers

Chips with everything

century proclaimed its aims as not only a "last" but a "new" phase of the fascination with the depravity of malfactors. Two centuries later, the play that fascination has got the better of Radio 4. This series of plays begins, boisterously, with Jonathan Wild, the self-styled "Chief of the Road" and "General". From trafficker in prostitution, he progressed to regulation of London crime. Criminals and justices alike were glib to his mollification. He was the Al Capone of his day, and John Rowe reimagines him in Christopher Denys's play.

RADIO 2

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-92.4-92.4. RADIO 4: 109.4/115.1. FM-92.4-94.6. LW 198. RADIO 5: 683KHz/433M; 809KHz/330M. LONDON RADIO: FM-102.4-102.4. FM-97.3. CAPITAL: 1548KHz/194M; FM-95.4. GL: FM-115.2/122.5M; FM-97.3. SERVICE: MW 648KHz/463M. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-100. WORLD: MW-1215. 1197. 1242 KHz. TALK RADIO: MW 1088, 1053KHz. Listings compiled by Peter Deor and Linda Galloway.

COLIN CAMPBELL

The rise and fall of Barings

ing this period. The negative growth rates in the recession years of 1991 and 1992 were together the main reason for the decline in the number of employees.

The mood at Barings yesterday was a far cry from that in October

[Faint, mostly illegible text from a document page]

MICHAEL HUGHES
Barclays de Zoete Wedd.

Surviving in the riskiest bond market

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

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and Link Galloway

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM-88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM-92.4-92.4. RADIO 4: 100.4/151.5. FM-92.4-94.6. LW 198. RADIO 5: 680kHz/453m; 800kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: FM-102.4-102.4. FM-97.3. CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM-95.4. GL: FM-102.4-102.4. WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-100.5. WORLD: MW-1215. 1197. 1242 kHz. TALK RADIO: MW 1088. 1053kHz-Listings compiled by Peter Dear and Linda Galloway

Superwoman, supertrain and Clark Kent

For the intellectual purist, television can be confusing when the form and content of a programme refuse to match. For example, when Friday's *Operavox* (BBC2) stages a huge tragedy such as *Rigoletto* by means of a ghoulish half-hour animation, something in the brain must stretch a little to accommodate it. Then, when the respectable highbrow *Bookmark* (BBC2) gives a full hour to the success story of *Thomas the Tank Engine*, the brain creeps with the effort. And finally, when the big guns of Andrew Neil's *Is This Your Life?* (Channel 4) are trained on the world's least offensive person, Olivia Newton-John, the brain finally draws the line, goes on strike, and shuts down until further notice.

To my shame, I had missed the previous instalments of *Is This Your Life?*, in which guests such as Fatima Whitbread, Jimmy Savile

and Max Clifford were famously discomfited by skeletons being yanked out of cupboards. So when Saturday's programme got under way, with Olivia Newton-John smiling expectantly like Bambi, and Neil smiling and laughing by return ("Now, ha ha, we spoke to your old boyfriend..."), the effect was horrible. "Don't trust him, Livvy!" I yelled. "Any minute now, he will tell the world you were a coke fiend!" Neil even built her up with an exaggerated introduction, calling her "one of the most popular female performers in the world". The ghastly dismantling process would evidently be starting pretty soon.

But it never happened. I was relieved for Ms Newton-John, of course, but more mad as hell. This programme was supposed to be a succession of witnesses vouching for her as the nicest and most beautiful girl-next-door they'd ever known, it became clear that this

jumped-up trial by television had picked entirely the wrong patsy. It emerged that Olivia Newton-John's most shameful moment was kissing John Travolta in *Grease*, and not telling anyone how yummy it was. She had made an appearance in Raymond's Revue Bar, but only by mistake. She once sang a dirty song in Australia. Listen, I've got more ammunition against my cat than Andrew Neil had against this particular guest. Yet here he sat, doing his tough, knowing, grizzled heavy-weight journalist bit (with clipboard), as if at any moment he'd bring the walls down.

As for *Bookmark*, a similar problem applied. Nobody minds that arts programmes address high and low art in the same terms, so long as they tell you what the fuss is about. What made Saturday's film about *Thomas the Tank Engine* a slight-

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

ly sad chuff-chuff through flat landscape was that the appeal of the original stories was pretty elusive to non-initiates. The books were seen primarily as artefacts, not as products of the imagination. Are the Railway Stories by the Rev Wilbert Awdry good? How do they relate to *Iron* the Engine? Bring in Tom Paulin, please, and let's hear some serious literary assessment.

Bookmark featured snippets from the original stories read aloud by Sir John Gielgud (presumably to make parents feel inadequate), but otherwise got up steam with a chronicle of the television success of Thomas, plus the merchandising and foreign sales (Thomas is very big in Japan). *Bookmark* took us to archives, to publishers' meetings, to Japan, and to television studios, where trains with faces puffed up and down on a cheap lay-out. I wanted to know about the money, but *Bookmark* was too polite to ask. Thomas is a very hot property, yet the Awdry family were clearly not living it up, and no one has noticed Thomas getting diamond wheel-trims, either.

Mr Awdry's reactions to the television series were mostly unfavourable. He disapproved of the cult of Thomas, and was appalled that the producers had "crane-shunted" Thomas into sto-

ries where he didn't belong. Also, when the producers started to write their own stories, they showed disregard for railway practice. An engine called Henry stopped for a breather in a forest. "What responsible driver would stop as if he was in a roadside lay-by?" demanded Awdry. "This shows a lamentable ignorance of Rule 55."

Back in the real world (as it were), *The New Adventures of Superman* (BBC1) returned on Saturday with a new villain, Lex Luthor's ex-wife. This dastardly woman, in the guise of an eminent psychoanalyst, held the city in thrall by sending coded messages through her column in *The Daily Planet*. Somehow she had whipped up the populace to a hatred of Superman. Twenty per cent of Metropolitans were against our hero, although oddly they couldn't explain why. "This is the

dumbing-down of America," announced Lois, when she heard the news. "They have an opinion but they don't know why they have it."

It was a pretty sophisticated story by the standards of 6.15 on a Saturday evening. The shrink disempowered Lois by diagnosing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder — the lay person's equivalent of chains and kryptonite! Of course, if Metropolis threw out Superman, he could always be a guest on *Is This Your Life?*, but in the meantime, how did the fiendish Mrs Luthor send her messages to the populace? Luckily Clark Kent sussed her sophisticated ploy. She was using acrostics: every section of her column being headed by a big capital letter, she arranged them to spell messages across the page, such as "Superman must die" and "You are so easily manipulated". It couldn't work, could it? No, of course not. It wouldn't even be worth a try.

BBC1

- 6.00 *Business Breakfast* (68195)
- 7.00 *Breakfast News* (62258756)
- 9.05 *Kilroy* (s) (9776447)
- 10.00 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (777575) 10.05 *EastEnders* — The Early Days (s) (Ceefax) (2704447)
- 10.35 *Good Morning with Anne and Nick*. Weekday magazine (s) (4951283)
- 12.00 *News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1654282) 12.05 *Pebble Mill* (s) (2880344) 12.55 *Regional News and Weather* (7592114)
- 1.00 *News* (Ceefax) and weather (14701) 1.30 *Neighbours*. (Ceefax) (s) (82780283)
- 1.50 *Going for Gold*. The debutant Henry Kelly returns with another series of the popular general knowledge quiz featuring 96 contestants from 26 countries competing for a North American holiday of a lifetime (s) (82791379)
- 2.15 *Knots Landing*. American drama series (s) (2144534) 3.05 *Today's Gourmet* (4810992)
- 3.30 *Cartoon* (917350) 3.45 *Bodger and Badger*. Live action and puppets series (s) (8112905) 4.00 *Jackanory*. Bill Paterson reads *The Last of the Dinosaur*, the first of a series of five stories by Ted Hughes (s) (4822373) 4.10 *The Legend of Prince Valiant*. (Ceefax) (s) (7088963) 4.35 *Tomorrow's End* (s) (Ceefax) (5273621) 5.00 *Newsround* (7927176) 5.10 *Blue Peter*. (Ceefax) (s) (9360756)
- 5.35 *Neighbours* (s) (Ceefax) (s) (899701)
- 6.00 *News* (Ceefax) and weather (756)
- 6.30 *Regional News Magazines* (468)
- 7.00 *Champion Telly Addicts*. The champion of champions final, between the Browns and the Rossiters (s) (7027)
- 7.30 *Watchdog*. (Ceefax) (s) (992)



Gillian Telford and Steve McFadden (8.00pm)

- 8.00 *EastEnders*. Kathy (Gillian Telford) and Phil (Steve McFadden) plan their reunion. (Ceefax) (s) (3447)
- 8.30 *Goodnight Sweetheart*. Comedy series starring Nicholas Lyndhurst. (Ceefax) (s) (5282)
- 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News* (Ceefax), regional news and weather (8992)
- 9.30 *Panorama: The Killing Screens*. A report examining the relationship between on-screen and real-life violence. (Ceefax) (801176)
- 10.10 *Natural Lies*. The second of the three-part thriller about a man obsessed with trying to find the reasons behind his former lover's suicide. (s) (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 10.30 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 10.40 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 10.50 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 11.00 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 11.10 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 11.20 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 11.30 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 11.40 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 11.50 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 12.00 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 12.10 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 12.20 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 12.30 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 12.40 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 12.50 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 1.00 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 1.10 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 1.20 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 1.30 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 1.40 *Country*. (Ceefax) (s) (173455) 1.50 *Country*. 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BUSINESS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 27 1995

HISTORY LESSON 42

GRAHAM SEARJEANT
ON RETAINING THE
CITY'S CONFIDENCE

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Worldwide derivatives inquiry demanded

By Neil Bennett, Deputy Business Editor

THE Bank for International Settlements, in an authoritative report published today, has forced central banks to organise the largest ever global inquiry into the extent of derivatives trading.

The initiative was established to prevent exactly the type of collapse that Barings suffered this weekend.

The report has prompted central banks to organise an inquiry into the scope of the derivatives market, starting in April, and to set up a mechanism so that the 50 largest will report their derivatives trading every three months.

The report, *Issues of measurement related to market size and macroprudential risks in derivatives market*, has been drawn up by a

working party of central banks, including that on recognised exchanges and over-the-counter markets.

They will have to reveal the size of their positions and hedging policies. The Bank of England will collate the information and pass it to the BIS, which will produce a report on the world market. Then, for the first time, the international banking authorities will be able to judge the size of the derivatives markets and the risks they pose.

After that, the Brockmeier report recommends a regular reporting system for the large investment banks that dominate the derivatives markets. Investment banks would be expected to hand over information from their internal data bases to central bank regulators. The report believes this would allow the world banking system to monitor the development of the derivatives markets and gauge their size and form. This recommendation has already been accepted by central banks, which are examining ways of setting up a reporting system.

The Brockmeier report is BIS's response to growing unease among central banks and politicians about the hidden risks in derivatives. This was stirred up by a succession of heavy derivative-related losses among banks and industrial companies in recent years, crowned by the \$1.5 billion loss by Metallgesellschaft in Germany.

April's investigation is particularly intended to shed some light on the shadowy over-the-counter market, where derivatives are traded between banks outside any recognised futures exchange.

The findings of the survey will be published to give banks a clearer idea of the nature of the markets in which they are trading.



Julie Conway, left, and Liz Southgate, both of Johnson Fry, taking part in the City Initiative's Bungee Running competition, held in Exchange Square in the Broadgate Centre on Friday. The competition in aid of Comic Relief was organised as a prelude to Red Nose day on March 17. Several investment banks have now pledged to donate a fixed sum for every bargain on the stock market that day.

Far East and London braced for fallout over Barings

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

TRADERS in the Far East and London were preparing themselves last night for a damaging fallout on stock and futures markets after the disclosure of the financial crisis at Barings.

Particularly vulnerable, even if the Bank of England succeeds in calming markets with a rescue package, are the stock market in Tokyo and the Osaka Securities Exchange and the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (SIMEX), both of which trade Nikkei-225 futures contracts.

Barings hit crisis point after a single trader in Singapore built up huge positions in these futures. There were fears last night about the potential

impact of Barings offloading any remaining positions.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange, where the Nikkei stock index is traded, and SIMEX said that they would open for normal trading, but the Osaka exchange said it was not sure whether it would open today.

Traders in the Far East said that there had been concern for some time about very substantial long positions built up by Barings in Nikkei-225 futures contracts and that these had probably become unsustainable after the sharp drop in the Nikkei index over the past two weeks.

Tokyo Stock Exchange figures suggested that futures activity linked to the Nikkei

index had been at very high levels recently. Cash-buying positions linked to arbitrage plays with Nikkei-225 futures were at a historic high of 1.5 billion shares as of last week.

Some analysts in Tokyo were predicting that the Nikkei could fall by 1,000 points in response to the troubles at Barings, which is a leading player in Far Eastern markets.

London, too, was highly nervous last night about the Barings affair, which has hit confidence at a time when sterling is already nearing record lows in anticipation of Wednesday's key vote for the Government on European policy. The pound dropped to

within half a pence of its all-time low against the mark late on Friday. Shares are likely to react badly too.

The Barings crisis adds to the turbulence and uncertainty that has already been seen in the world's markets this year. The crisis after the devaluation of the Mexican peso had serious knock-on effects on the dollar and emerging markets.

Added to that were political and economic woes in several European countries, including Britain, which have led to record lows for the Italian lira and the Spanish peseta against the mark last week and near-record lows for the pound.

Pentos still hoping to beat deadline

Pentos, the troubled owner of Dillons and Rymans, will today continue last-ditch rescue talks with its banks and venture capitalists in the hope of raising £20 million in fresh capital before tomorrow's deadline.

In spite of its difficult position, Pentos is believed to have turned its back on an offer by Terry Maier, the ousted former chairman, to buy Dillons.

There is growing anger at Pentos at the banks' refusal to increase their lending, in spite of having had early warnings of its working capital needs. Last December, the banks forced Pentos to put its Athena subsidiary into receivership as a condition of continued support.

Babcock to win Rosyth for £20m

By Neil Bennett, Deputy Business Editor

THE Government is set to sell the Rosyth royal dockyard and naval base in Scotland to a powerful consortium that plans to redevelop it into Scotland's largest industrial park. After meetings with Roger Freeman, the Defence Procurement Minister, Babcock International, the power engineering group, is expected to buy the Rosyth dockyard for up to £20 million this summer. Meanwhile, a consortium including Babcock, called Rosyth 2000, is poised to buy the adjacent naval base for a similar sum.

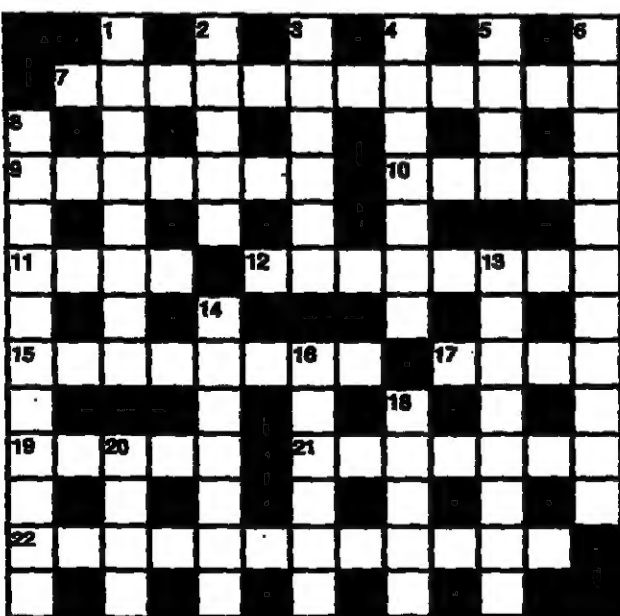
The consortium, which also includes the Bank of Scotland, ScottishPower and the Forth Ports Authority, is the front runner to buy the 1,200-acre naval base, which closes at the end of the year. The chances of the bid's success were increased by Mr Freeman in the House of Commons recently when he pledged that he would not undertake a "piece-meal sale" of the base.

If the two bids are successful, Babcock plans to sell the consortium the dockyards and lease them back to minimise its investment. The consortium would then redevelop the whole area to attract Scotland's thriving business community.

Babcock has emerged as the only bidder for Rosyth dockyards, but its bid is thought to have been well received by the Government since it is sufficiently high to warrant privatising the yard. The group has now been asked to submit a final bid. Babcock is believed to be insisting that the Government should shoulder all the environmental liabilities for the dockyards, which refuel nuclear submarines. The Government should make a final decision on the sale this summer.

Rosyth 2000 plans to finance its bid with 50 per cent equity, supplied by the partners, and the rest in debt lent by the Bank of Scotland. The strong Scottish credentials of the projects' shareholders are thought to strengthen the chances of its offer. Mr Freeman has told the Commons that he expects further proposals from them next month, and is interested only in bids for the whole naval base.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 406

ACROSS

- 7 Thoroughly well (3,2,1,6)
9 Alone for (7)
10 Great fear (5)
11 Newcastle river (4)
12 Half shadow (8)
15 Part-song society (4,4)
17 Lister (4)
19 Ritually forbidden (5)
21 Not native (7)
22 Displaying lively interest (12)

DOWN

- 1 Measure out and issue (8)
2 Position/speed detection system (5)
3 Germ cell (6)
4 Discover (4,3)
5 Surface boundary (4)
6 Dismiss peremptorily (4,7)
8 Informal gathering (3-8)
13 Serenely radiant (8)
14 Pastoral poem (7)
16 Inequitable (6)
18 Gambol: check for weapons (5)
20 Clyde island; 18C PM (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 405

- ACROSS: 1 Snub 4 Fair copy 8 Hot stuff 9 Darn
10 Fever 11 Interim 13 Withier 15 Tubing 18 Offhand
20 Least 23 Baby 24 Thickset 25 Keenness 26 Rude
DOWN: 2 Nouse 3 Beseech 4 Peud 5 Infinite 6 Cadge
7 Portion 10 Few 12 Brunette 14 Inflame 16 Breaker
17 Get 19 Haydn 21 Spend 22 Bias

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UK may have most works councils

BRITAIN may end up with the largest number of European works councils of any country in Europe, in spite of the Government's social chapter opt-out aimed at avoiding unwelcome employment law from Brussels (Philip Bassett writes).

The figures are revealed in the latest and most authoritative guide to the impact of EWCs in Britain by Warwick University and Industrial Relations Services, employment analysts.

Under new European law, certain multinational companies will have to introduce by September next year new methods of informing and consulting employees on key areas of business activity.

The Warwick study suggests 860 companies across Europe may be affected by the EWC directive, including 326 multinationals in Britain, the single-highest number.

North West Water looks to Australia for expansion

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

NORTH WEST WATER is looking to buy an Australian water utility as part of its expansion overseas. The acquisition of an entire water business would be a significant step for the group, which has so far only taken on contracts for specific water projects.

Nick Greiner, the chairman of North West Water and formerly the Premier of New South Wales, said: "We'd be keen to buy and to actually run a utility business in Australia. It's something we'd very much like to do. We are ready, willing and able."

The State Governments of Australia have been considering the option of selling off their water utilities as part of a national privatisation programme. Late last year, the Governments of Victoria and New South Wales began the process by "corporatising"

Sydney Water and Melbourne Water - effectively running them along private lines while under government ownership.

The South Australian Government is looking for a global partner to help it to develop its water business, a move that would involve contracting out many operations and its capital works programme to the private sector.

Britain's water companies are under pressure to find new unregulated sources of revenue in the wake of Ofwat's clampdown on future price rises in their core water businesses.

Mr Greiner said: "All the governments know that we are ready, willing and able if they choose to put the businesses up for sale. At the moment, no one has quite had the political courage to sell the part of the business that deals

with the customers. We've just got to be patient. At the end of the day their problems are not technical; their problems are political."

Steven Humphreys, North West Water spokesman, said: "We remain convinced that expanding overseas is the right thing to do in view of the need to build up earnings that are non-regulated. It is an opportunity to build up a sustainable stream of earnings which aren't under threat from the whims of the regulator."

North West Water has been one of the most active in the sector to seek business overseas and has already won contracts to operate and build water treatment plants in Melbourne and Sydney, as well as to upgrade water and waste water systems in Malaysia, Mexico and Thailand.

Power chiefs' pay fuels workers' claim

By Philip Bassett

BRITAIN'S electricity union leaders are today due to announce that they plan to demand wage increases for union members as big as those given to power chiefs.

Union leaders say that claims for 30,000 white-collar workers in the power industry will be directly linked to what they call electricity directors' pay "bonanza" in the past year.

Business leaders concerned at the high levels and increases of some directors' pay - especially in privatised utilities, such as electricity, gas, water and telecommunications - have been giving warning that big pay rises at the top of companies will have a knock-on effect on pay bargaining, but the move by Unison, the public services union - and Britain's



Wallis defended his pay

largest trade union - is the first time such a strategy has been used explicitly.

Unison says it will lodge with the 19 national and regional electricity companies pay demands that "reflect

increases of between 11 and 30 per cent which chairman and chief executives received".

Evidence published by the union today presents new calculations of the salary, share option and pension packages of electricity leaders.

Ed Wallis, PowerGen's chief executive, who recently insisted that he was worth all his salary and who will be questioned tomorrow about his pay by the Commons Employment Select Committee, enjoys a post-privatisation package worth £3.7 million, the union says, while John Baker, National Power's chief executive, is on £2.3 million. The figures are calculated by taking a figure for executives' post-privatisation salary and what it would have been had the company stayed in the public sector, similar public-

private pension calculations, plus fully-calculated share options.

The union shows the largest rises for directors of electricity companies over the past year, including 38 per cent for the highest-paid director of Yorkshire Electricity and 34 per cent for Eastern's top-earner - though SWEB's highest-paid director saw a fall in pay of 10 per cent. The union links the rises directly to big job cuts at most of the companies. Pay deals are rising and are expected to increase further after the latest jump in retail price inflation, according to Incomes Data Services, the pay research company. It found three-quarters of deals this year giving rises of at least 3 per cent, with a further fifth, an increasing proportion, at 4 per cent or more.



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